Boston Latin School
ARGO

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Official Newspaper of the Boston Latin School

Yummy Thai food, pg. 3



Girls' Swimming, p.13



Kicks Out of Franken

By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

Al Franken may not know how to set up a fractional equation, but he sure is funny. Last Monday morning, Franken made a special appearance while on tour promoting his new book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*. Although such a visit would not normally be possible, BLS alumnus (and Argo legend) Andrew Barr '01 worked on Franken's Harvard research team (also known as TeamFranken) and arranged the visit. After a 7:30 a.m. radio interview via telephone from Mr. Montague's office, Franken addressed this year's Facing History and Ourselves students. The Facing History teacher, Ms. Judi Freeman, was very excited to have such a high-profile speaker address her class. She explains, "We had Al Franken in to represent a particular perspective on the current political climate. We are hoping to bring in other political perspectives later on this year."



COURTESY OF THE HARVARD GAZETTE

Franken began his hour-long talk by discussing many current issues, including Bush's tax cuts, Osama bin Laden, and the oh-so-applicable No Child Left Behind Act. Franken referred to the act as "the most ironically titled piece of legislation since the 1942 Japanese Family Relocation Act." Then, addressing his book's emphasis on distortions in the media, Franken explained how Brit Hume of Fox News used shoddy math skills in order to mislead his readers. By conveniently forgetting sample sizes, Hume led his readers to believe that the risk of being murdered as a citizen of California is several times more likely than dying for any reason as a service member in Iraq. After much debate (and a mock kick to the head of a certain precocious member of Class I) it was established that Mr. Hume was indeed incorrect and, moreover, a lying liar.

Before the end of the session, Mr. Franken took questions from the students. When asked if he considered himself a propagandist, he replied "What I do isn't propaganda. What I do is take something they say and use it against them. What I do is ju-jitsu. And then I subject them to scorn and ridicule."

Strapped for Cash

By Ashlyn Garry, III & Liz Finlayson, III
Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

At the end of the last school year, the Boston Latin School community was in chaos. Rumors that masses of teachers were either retiring or had been let go spread through the hallways. Students, parents, and teachers were similarly concerned about class sizes in the year ahead. There was no paper and supplies of every kind were limited. A new year has come. On the first day of school, many students were indeed surprised to find the fresh faces of new teachers, not relocated ones, in the front of their classrooms. It is time to find out where we stand. Where did the school find the necessary funding for the fleet of new teachers? How many teachers retired? How many teachers have been relocated to other places in the Boston Public Schools? At last the answers to these pressing questions are available.

The first question on anyone's mind is how the salaries of the new teachers are being paid. It is common knowledge that an extensive amount of teachers retired from the BLS faculty. These departures not only left the need for new teachers, but also the money necessary to support them. Some teachers retired earlier then they had planned in order to save the jobs of their colleagues. In fact, Ms. Kelley stated that "a number of people retired who saved the jobs of other people who would have otherwise been relocated." Many new teachers have been added to the English department to replace retirees.

Making these cuts was not an easy task for Ms. Kelley and the rest of the administration. The teaching staff was not the only section of the BLS faculty to take hits. Rather than to take out an entire department, the administration made the decision to make small cuts from each one, including the cafeteria and custodial staff. "All aspects of the professional staff" were affected, said Ms. Kelley. One noticeable cut was in the Modern Languages program, where the single existing German teacher, Ms. LePietre was laid off. Now, the language department no longer offers German as an elective for new students. Dr. George Carroll teaches the remaining classes.

One of the biggest rumors was that, instead of being laid off, our teachers would be relocated to other schools in the system. It was a major surprise, however, to discover that only a small number of teachers had had their positions transferred to different schools.

It seems as if almost all of the teachers at Boston Latin School have retired. But Ms. Kathy Devin, a Boston Teachers' Union representative, says that there were only "approximately 16 to 18" retirees.

A problem of utmost concern for teachers and students alike was class size. Most classes are packed full, and at times overflowing, with students. This especially is a problem for departments with a limited number of teachers qualified to teach a subject. There is nowhere for the excess of students to go. Teachers do not know how to decide to cut students, and, naturally, do not want to leave any behind.

The minds of the BLS community are, for now, set at ease. Boston Latin has somehow come through its budget crises. However, one wonders whether all of these problems may be exacerbated by the budget next year.

News Commentary: Understanding Iraq

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

By this time, just about everyone in the United States with an IQ exceeding that of the average gym sock is probably aware that the country is, at the moment, embroiled in an ever-more-confusing situation in the Middle Eastern country of Iraq. Many people lacking the IQ of a gym sock have formed opinions on the matter, and can currently be found expounding upon them on national television.

What some may not realize is the extent to which today's conflict is rooted in the distant past. Indeed, for an area known as the "cradle of civilization," Iraq has been the site of some remarkably uncivilized behavior — especially in the last few decades.

This particular era's troubles all started in 1979, when Saddam Hussein took power in Iraq through shady political shenanigans. His actions were noted but did not draw international concern until 1980, when Iraq and neighboring Iran became immersed in war. As Americans worried vaguely about declining music and ascending hairstyles, this clash continued for almost a decade, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths-and threatening the world's oil supply.

Now comes the really interesting part: in 1987, Saddam began gassing rural Kurdish towns, killing 5,000 in one assault on the town of Halabja alone. He explained the attacks on the Kurdish minority by pointing out their alliance with Iran, but as the

Continued on page 2



COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

USA Patriot Act

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

One of America's earliest responses to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 was a hastily-written act that was passed with little time for scrutiny or debate. At the time only one senator, Russ Feingold (D-WI), voted against the act. Since its passage on October 26, 2001, however, the PATRIOT Act has been the topic of much controversy. On one end of the political spectrum are those who believe that the power of the act should be expanded. Its opponents want to see portions of the act, or the entire act, repealed. Because the PATRIOT Act deals with the security of Americans, it is sure to be one of the key issues in the upcoming Democratic primaries and in the 2004 presidential election.

It is difficult to determine the full scope of the PATRIOT Act because it amends some laws and establishes new rules in so many areas. It relaxes restrictions on wiretaps, and allows the FBI to see what web pages people visit. It grants power to law enforcement to demand personal records, credit reports and library transactions. The PATRIOT Act allows non-citizens to be detained indefinitely without the right to a counsel or speedy trial. It makes "domestic terrorism" a crime, which means that anyone from protesters to authors of anthrax hoaxes may be prosecuted.

Over the past two years the Bush administration and Attorney General John Ashcroft have requested that a clause be removed and the act be made permanent. The Justice Department has also drafted the "PATRIOT Act II," or the Domestic Security Enhancement Act. This would allow wiretapping without court permission, permit the deportation of aliens for minor charges, create a database of terrorists' DNA, relax restrictions on the use of secret evidence, and let citizens be detained without the lawyers promised by the Constitution. It would also grant the attorney general power to revoke the citizenship of those providing "material support" to terrorist groups.

There is widespread opposition to PATRIOT Act II among lawmakers, especially Democrats. Some are even filing laws to cut funding for pieces of the PATRIOT Act or to repeal the surveillance powers it grants. The American Library Association is protesting because they might be forced to reveal lists of books that patrons have checked out, though Ashcroft maintains that this particular clause has never been used. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit against the clauses about record searches in businesses, libraries, and bookstores. They have also demanded that Ashcroft declassify information regarding how the PATRIOT Act has been used.

Across the country, activists have staged "teach-ins" and rallies against the PATRIOT Act and its sequel. When Ashcroft spoke at Faneuil Hall this September, protesters were out in force — even during a weekday. Resolutions opposing part or all of the act have been passed by some 140 communities, including the four Massachusetts communities refuting the entire act. Last year in Boston, several members of the City Council proposed such a resolution, but Council president Michael Flaherty refused to allow the issue to be debated, claiming it was unrelated to affairs in Boston.

While the PATRIOT Act may sound like a dry topic, civil liberties and domestic security are two issues that Americans consider highly important. Each must be carefully weighed against the other. The balance lawmakers to which will come will affect the lives of every person residing in the United States.

Ask The Argo

What's different about the *Argo* this year?

1. Newsprint will cut our printing time to two days, which means our news will be current (!)
2. Forum is back with a vengeance.
3. We have changed our font. We voted. It's serif now. You may not care.
4. The *Argo* will now be available online a day after production: www.blsargo.org.
5. We aim to provoke—discussion, debate, anger, nausea, death threats—even thought!
6. We have switched from pizza to imitation Chinese food on Final Fridays.
7. Our editor enjoys dressing up as a Swiss dairy maid, as opposed to last year's editor, who tended towards a trendy caveman ensemble.
8. We no longer wear shoes.

How do I write for the *Argo*?

There will be a massive writers' meeting on October 16 in the MacLab.

Continued from page 1

war ended and the massacres of Kurdish civilians and soldiers alike went on, the campaign soon revealed itself as genocide. The United States, a staunch supporter of Iraq since '82 and unsure of the reasons for the killings, responded by incisively and forcefully doing nothing. The intent was to preserve the balance of power in the Middle East and prevent one person from having too much control. Oops.

The Iraqi attack on Kuwait, another small Middle Eastern country whose existence came as news to many Westerners, swiftly dispelled any illusion of stability. United Nations sanctions and the Gulf War bombings of Baghdad by America and its allies soon allowed Kuwait to regain its freedom and recede into obscurity, but President Bush (Sr.) stopped before overthrowing Saddam's regime. Oops, again.

The question on many people's lips now is, Why attack Iraq now, except to provide the media with a catchy rhyming headline? True, Iraq has repelled attempts to ascertain their weapons capabilities, and they did try to assassinate the elder Bush in 1993 — but hey, we didn't want to re-elect him anyway. Saddam's policy of assassinating dissenters has remained more or less the same for the past 15 years, and has resulted in the deaths of many religious and political leaders. Far more alarming to Western interests was a failed effort to instigate other Middle Eastern Arab countries to stop exporting oil in April of 2002.

The stated reason for the combined American-British assault on Iraq was primarily that Saddam was suspected of concealing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) — a logical fear, perhaps, since U.N. weapons inspectors were only hesitantly allowed into the country. Once there, they reportedly found a lot of sand.

There was also the possibility of a connection between Saddam and al Qaeda. In his State of the Union address, Bush (Jr.) said that "evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications, and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al Qaeda." No connection, however, has been established between Saddam's government and al Qaeda. Bush also declared that "the British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." The reports that Bush was referring to were later found to be falsified.

In light of these revelations, many people in both Britain and the United States are realizing that, all things considered, they really don't want their countrymen dying for no perceptible reason in a distant country. In Britain especially there has been a strong movement to pull out the troops and do away with Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose questionable intelligence efforts have utterly failed to live up to the high standards set by such famous Englishmen as James Bond and Austin Powers.

Lamentably, this is unlikely to happen. As Robert Burns of the Associated Press puts it: "Five months into the American occupation of Iraq, there are growing signs that the Bush administration vastly underestimated what it would take to stabilize the country after Baghdad fell in early April." He cites unexpectedly high maintenance and repair costs, unusually long stints of duty, and — most unnerving of all — an increasing demand for new troops. In fact, 171 coalition soldiers have been killed since Bush declared the hostilities over, compared to 139 during the war. "We never really had a nation-building plan," admits military expert Anthony Cordesman, quoted in the article. Apparently they were hoping no one would notice.

The 87 billion dollars (that's nine zeros, or roughly 29 billion Burger King meals) Bush recently requested from Congress signify that he does now have a plan, but an expensive and long-term one — power *may* be turned over to the Iraqis sometime next year. So, like it or not, we can expect to spend a long time and a lot of money in Iraq.

Boston Latin School
ARGO

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BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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Mission Statement
Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Fall Employment Opportunities

By Hale McAnulty, III
Staff Writer

Many students at Boston Latin School may be looking for a way to earn a little spending money, community service hours, or just experience in a work atmosphere. Now that the school year has started again, students are given this opportunity. However, they may not know how to accomplish this. There is an office above the library inside the Schwabel Center called the Private Industry Council (PIC) office. Ms. Bateman, who runs the PIC office, helps students find suitable and enjoyable jobs. Specialists at the office help students select the jobs that they want and then provide aid throughout the interview process. Through these jobs students gain valuable experience that will often help them in later careers.

There are many jobs currently available, including work at law firms or the New England Board of Higher Education, as well as internships at Simmons College. If these do not interest a student, or if he or she is not hired, there are always more possibilities. Jobs available in the PIC office may pay anywhere from the minimum wage to $12 per hour. The people at the PIC office know that students have a lot of homework to do at night, but do not fret: an average a job requires around 10 hours of work per week. With work spread across seven days, there is plenty of time to finish any homework or projects without being up all night. To apply for a job, students must be of working age — 14 years. Aside from that, however, there are no restrictions.

There are also major opportunities for those students who would like to add to their community service hours. There are openings for Gala volunteers, as well as many community service jobs, right in the school. Upperclassmen can become tutors for younger students who need the older students' great knowledge.

Of course, any enterprising BLS student is now thinking, How do I get a piece of the action? To apply for one of these fabulous jobs, one only has to go to the PIC office before school. Mrs. Bateman will schedule an appointment during a study and help to find the job that works the best. Don't wait — there are currently 307 working students and the jobs fill up fast. Don't miss out!

Food Column: Khao Sarn

By Lin Ma, I
Food Columnist

Khao Sarn
250 Harvard Street, Brookline MA. 02446
Transportation: Green Line (C-Cleveland Circle), Coolidge Corner
Cuisine Type: Northern Thai
Atmosphere: 10/10
Cleanliness: 9/10
Service: 8/10
Quality: 9/10
Value: 7/10

Brookline is home to a plethora of restaurants hosting flavors from all corners of the world. Nestled in Coolidge Corner, at the heart of its dining opportunities and just a 20 minute walk from Boston Latin School, is a cozy little Thai gem called Khao Sarn.

Though it faces stiff competition from other Thai restaurants nearby, Khao Sarn's distinction comes from its relaxed atmosphere. It showcases frosted glass windows, a high ceiling, a contemporary yet natural bar, and a warm, rustic color scheme to tie everything together. Textiles are strung around the restaurant to mitigate the bright colors and soft Asian melodies lull patrons in the background.

The most enticing quirk of this posh restaurant comes from its modest price tag. For the student-friendly budget, perhaps $10 for a decent dinner, the "Noodles & Fried Rice" segment of the menu provides more than enough options. The Indonesian Fried Rice ($8.95) is infused with the zesty curry flavor that is emblematic of northern Thai cuisine and is given a raw twist with the flavor of fresh shiitake mushrooms. Tiger prawns and morsels of eggs give the rice a briny tang. Slices of grilled chicken breast marinated in lime juice and spices are laid on top to complete this exquisite concoction.



BY JOHNSON TRAN, II



BY BURTON SHEN, II

Dishes in other categories of the extensive menu tend to be a bit more costly and often need to be accompanied with rice at $1.25 per cup. On my second visit, I asked for the appetizer sampler platter ($8.95). To my disappointment, it was not particularly exotic and was not worth the money. The platter is composed of pairs and trios of its most popular appetizers. My personal favorite, the vegetarian roll, is filled with a tiny mound of carrots, rice noodles, and coconut shreds. Beef and chicken satay offer a less greasy alternative to its fried counterparts. Small slabs of meat marinated in citrus curry are skewered on bamboo and grilled until tender. The downside to the dish is the Thai rangoons, clones of the crab rangoons found in most takeout joints. Peanut, cucumber and sweet chili sauce accompany the delicate bites and deliver an infinite amount of dipping combinations.

Prompted by my request for a seafood suggestion, the polite and dutiful waitress recommended the Khao Sarn Coconut Seafood ($15.50). A favorite among Khao Sarn regulars, it certainly deserves its reputation. The dish arrives in a festive coconut, with tiger shrimp, sea scallops, calamari and mussels swimming in a sea of coconut milk based curry.

If there is room and money for dessert, then you can't go wrong by choosing the banana nuggets ($4.95) à la mode with coconut ice cream ($3.95). Slices of banana are wrapped in wonton skins and deep fried to golden brown. The petite crisp packages are drizzled with honey and finished with a sprinkle of sesame seeds. This dish is impressive served alone, but when paired with coconut ice cream the contrast between temperatures and textures mesmerizes your taste buds. It's the perfect conclusion to an evening at this remarkable restaurant.

Do-It-Yourselfers: Bayside Coconut Curry

2 tsp Thai red curry paste (found in the international aisle at most supermarkets)
2 tbsp water
1/2 lb. tiger shrimps, peeled and de-/veined
1/2 lb. sea scallops
1/2 lb. mussels, shelled
1 tbsp peanut oil
1/2 cup scallions, chopped
1 14.5 oz can of coconut milk
1 tbsp dried basil
2 tbsp packed light brown sugar
1/2 tsp salt

1. Dilute the curry paste with water and toss the seafood into the mixture to coat. Heat the oil on high in a skillet and cook the seafood for about 3-4 minutes, or until tender but not overdone.

2. Put the scallions in and stir with the seafood for about a minute, or until flavors infuse.

3. Stir in the last four ingredients and simmer on medium-low heat for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve over rice.

Three Girls, A Guy (and a Pizza Place)

By Katie Chong, I and Kathryn McDonald, I
Assistant Copy Editor & Forum Editor

Kassie Skipper
Pimped-out blonde thug seeks rugged mountain man to dance in the woods with. Extra-scruffy applicants welcome, as K-Dawg is turned on by unkempt hair and clothes with holes in them. Applicants must have an eclectic taste in music and be prepared while cruising in the Jeep listening



the sounds of Joni Mitchell. Always chill: Skip needs a laidback type of guy. Sensitive hearts stay away.

Kathryn McDonald
Neurotic, grade-obsessed female who is "ready for some lovin'." Katie likes to freestyle and beat box — at the same time. Also loves to karaoke with strangers. A true rebel at heart, looking for someone to do math with on Friday nights while listening to the musical stylings of Al Green. Collared shirts a turn on. Applicants must be "wicked smart, extremely nice, with the right sense of humor." Redheads from Roxbury Latin especially welcome.



Katie Chong
Assistant copy editor, also known as "gangsta chick" looking for a long-term relationship. Applicants must be Oxford graduates with Ph.D. Ability to understand Katie's swift speech is a must. Should also *not* have a complex vocabulary, since she dislikes carrying dictionaries around. Also likes cute guys in collared shirts and khakis. All applicants must be immune to poking, as our loveable Katie is fond of poking people.



Edward Chiu
This Assistant A&E Editor is a walking dictionary waiting to impress you with his immense vocabulary. Applicants must have either a knowledge of obscure words or a detailed dictionary when going on dates. Applicants must also be tolerant of constant interruptions at lunch and enjoy being called a "vituperative hobbledehoy".



Senior Spot

A Letter of Encouragement to the Class of 2004

Dear Seniors,

As you begin the college application process, please remember that every challenge that you encounter teaches you a lesson about life. During the process try not to lose sight of the positive things that applying to college will teach you. In addition to experiencing a profound sense of accomplishment you will be amazed at how the process will help strengthen the relationships that you have with your family, friends, and school. So as you navigate the process, I hope that the following words of advice and encouragement will help you see that every experience lived results in a lesson learned.

The key to finding a good college is to select colleges that are a good match or a good fit. For every college on your list ask yourself ? Can I see myself at this school for the next four years?? What may be right for one person may not necessarily be the right thing for you. Be honest with yourselves about why you are applying to the colleges on your list.

Do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. There are many excellent resources available to you at Boston Latin School. Seek advice from your counselors about your list of colleges or any other concerns you may have. There is always an ear willing to listen.

Reduce stress by not waiting until the last minute to complete tasks. Make sure that you observe all college deadlines but also set up a personal deadline of your own. Many students find selecting a date before Christmas break to complete and mail applications helpful. Setting your own personal deadline makes things more manageable and will help you navigate the process at your own pace.

Keep everything in perspective- maintain a positive but realistic outlook. Make sure that your list includes schools in the Reach, Reasonable and Likely categories. Having a financially safe school is an important part of a well- developed college list.

Value the time that you spend with your friends. Take the time to preserve friendships and explore ways in which you can build new friendships with classmates. Many times it is not until you have reached the end of your high school career that you realize that the things that you have in common outweigh the things that make you different. Remember that your role as future BLS alumni is the common thread that you will always share.

Sincerely,
Ms. Sylvester

P.S. Always remember that kind words of support and encouragement are closer than you think

President's Message

By Janelle Jackson, I
Contributing Writer

Class committee members have been visiting their respective homerooms advertising the things that they are trying to get done. Sadly, they have received no cooperation from the members of the senior class. I myself have gone to individual members of the class of 2004 and asked them to help out with different things. A few have met me halfway and were enthusiastic about being a part of the monumental effort to make our senior year a memorable one. Others have immediately responded with the question, "What's in it for me?" If this is the question that will confront us every time we want to get something done, we may as well give up now. If we are not united as a class, we will fail to get privileges and, most importantly, we will fail to raise money and find a place for graduation. When we call on you to do something and you know you have the time, please remind yourself that you do not want to be in a line of 350 seniors being handed their diplomas in the cafeteria in June, being sent on their ways to an institution of higher learning with a hearty handshake. If we do not support each other, that is exactly where we are headed.

We have been commended on our behavior, showing that we are headed in the right direction to get the privileges that we have requested. In order to really push through our desire for a senior academic center, however, we must form a unified front. We as a class have to prove to the administration that we are team players rather than isolated individuals. The class committee can only go in and fight for the class if it acts accordingly. I am calling on every single one of you again.I did already at the assembly and you have yet to meet the challenge. Let us show the administration that it is not making a mistake in taking a chance and treating us like adults. Let us show support for everyone in our class. Let us not make into liars the teachers who have shown support for us. Let us prove that we deserve all that is coming to us.



COURTESY OF BLS WEBSSITE

Class of '04 - Can't hold us down!



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

CLASS OFFICERS (LEFT TO RIGHT): PRESIDENT JANELLE JACKSON, TREASURER APRIL NIEVES, SECRETARY GEORGE FRANÇOIS, VICE PRESIDENT RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE

Seniors Get Sudsy

By Rob Winikates, I
Staff Writer

"Water, bubbles, wet t-shirts, fun for the whole family!" proclaimed the first announcement for the Senior Class Carwash on August 9. This obviously is a good advertising campaign, since the Senior Class earned over $700. People showed up in everything from dump trucks with mud baked into the paint to shiny Escalades that really didn't need a washing. However, no matter what the condition of the car, the seniors that showed up washed each one for a donation of $5 each. The senior class would like to thank all the parents, faculty, and alumni who showed up to support us, especially the staff of St. John's church in West Roxbury for allowing seniors to use the church parking lot. Business was booming that hot summer day on Washington St. and we all had plenty to do from 9:30 in the morning until well past 3:30. Underclassmen take note: the carwash is the next bake sale!

October 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 *Jonathan Tucker's visit*	3	4
5 *Red Sox vs. Oakland (1 PM)*	6	7	8 *First NHS meeting (Rm. 309)*	9	10 *Seniors cap and gown money due*	11 *SAT I and II*
12 *Hug an Argonaut day*	13 *(no school) Columbus Day*	14	15	16	17 *Texas Chainsaw Massacre Jonathan Tucker's movie*	18 *PSATs*
19	20	21	22 *College Fair*	23	24 *End of Term I*	25 *Alumni Saturday*
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

Forum

Liberia: A Nation In Need

By Yuan Zhang, I
Editorial Writer

We often pride ourselves on the ideals of our country: America was built on the backs of immigrants dreaming of a society that practiced freedom of the press, speech, and religion. These principles, we have argued, have made our country strong, distinguished among others. But are these concepts truly responsible for our success? Can they withstand more trying times?

Liberia, a nation that started out with the very same ideology as ours, is now a nation in ruins. When the American Colonization Society first relocated former slaves to this former Sierra Leone territory, these freed peoples gradually became the first Liberians, who settled around the capital of Monrovia, a city named after our former President James Monroe. After becoming an independent republic in 1847, it had one of the most liberal charters in the world. These Liberians also replicated the country from which they came by ruling over the natives, and exploiting the nation's rich resources.

Despite its lofty founding principles, civil strife has plagued the country for decades. After a series of coups, Liberia was placed in the hands of Charles Taylor, who promised to restore his country to peace again. Yet Taylor broke this promise by pocketing the nation's resources, bribing his own officials and troops, and ruling like a common thug. His people have been deprived of basic human needs and rights, hospitals, education systems, and millions have fled their homeland. Liberia has since been named by *The Economist* as the worst country to inhabit, lagging far behind Somalia and Afghanistan.

Liberia, a nation that started out with the same ideology as ours, is now a nation in ruins.

Even with such alarming facts, Liberia has still received less media attention than other nations in crisis. Despite the cries of Liberians calling out to the United States for freedom and safety to their founding fathers, their vain shouts have been mostly ignored. Maybe we do nothing because Liberia holds no real interest for America, or maybe we are skeptical and unsure of how to manage our neglected child. If so, let us then follow the footsteps of our own father country, Great Britain. The British have intervened in the country of Sierra Leone, their former colony and a nation sharing a similar history and present-day conflict with Liberia. Although far from a restored nation, Sierra Leone is no longer a living story of mass slaughter, rape, mutilation, and cannibalism. Their well-intentioned mission has worked, and the British are now starting a slow pro-cess of repair.

Why should the United States do something as well? Liberia needs immediate help or her limbs will be permanently crushed by corruption and ineptitude. It is evident that the Liberian democratic experiment has not worked. We have an obligation as her guardian to act now: shouldn't we use our good fortunes to help a country in need and put into practice the very ideals that both our nations share? Already a whole generation of young men has been torn from their families, has been turned into child soldiers, and is familiar with only the philosophies of murder and cannibalism. Young women have been repeatedly raped and mutilated, psychologically damaged and deprived of protection. If we do not step in and do something now, will the next generation be further removed from humanity and hope?

Diversity: Is It Really Working at the T?

By Ruthzee Louijeune, I
Contributing Writer

After the daily educational experience at Boston Latin School, some of us find ourselves staggering through Forest Hills, Ashmont, Ruggles and the various other "magnificent" MBTA stations. We see posters on the dull sides of buses and trains saying: "Diversity: It's working at the T." While some may argue against the validity of this statement, there are other issues that should be of the MBTA's concern.

At the end of the day, there are many students, including myself, who take the 8 and 47 buses that stop on the side of school. (Well, at least they are supposed to.) There are times when we as students become victims of age discrimination and are not even aware of it. Last year, I was with a group of friends waiting for the 8 and the 47, which go to Ruggles Station, for more than twenty minutes. In that time span, we could have walked to Ruggles Station, since the bus takes a ridiculous 15 minutes to get from Boston Latin to Ruggles. Finally, at approximately 2:52 the bus reached the stop on Avenue Louis Pasteur. A sense of relief rushed through us, as we took out our bus passes from our bags. Approaching us, the bus driver decided not to stop or even acknowledge our existence. Outraged, confused and impatient, we all looked at each other. Although still perplexed from what had just happened, I was able to remain calm, noting the bus number along with a physical description of the bus driver. My friends and I were forced to walk to Ruggles Station. When I got home, I decided that I would do something about what had happened. I wrote a letter of complaint to the Director of Buses at the MBTA, and waited several days. No response. No change.

This unjustifiable act was repeated about a week later. There were about 15 people at the bus stop, all of whom happened to be students. This time, the bus was full, but the bus driver pointed out that there was another bus behind him. We weren't mad. Yet. The second bus driver did not stop. There could not have been more than twenty people on that bus. Again I took down the bus number and wrote a rather unpleasant letter of complaint to the MBTA. In *this* letter, I mentioned that this was the second time that I had written to the MBTA about this problem. Again, no response. Again, no change.

These are only several examples of how the MBTA has discriminated on the basis of age. The MBTA has concocted a Customer Bill of Rights, stating: "You have a right to be heard. We promise to make your issues count. Convenient and prominently-located bus, train, and station posters will get you the information you need to 'Write to the Top.' Top level management will respond to your concerns." The people at the MBTA obviously do not live up to their decree. Or maybe they should amend their Bill of Rights. "You have a right to be heard...unless you are under the age of eighteen." What is most disturbing about this discrimination is that since young people do not tend to adamantly voice disapproval of their situation, the MBTA knowingly decides to shut its eyes.

This past summer I, along with other BLS students involved in the Ward Fellowship Program, had the opportunity to meet with Neil Sullivan, the Director of the Private Industry Council. During our conversation, the topic of MBTA's practice of ageism emerged. He confirmed that this was a problem not just outside Boston Latin School, but around the city, citing multiple instances where groups of students had been ignored in Dorchester and other neighborhoods. He proposed a possible explanation, noting that several MBTA drivers do not stop the bus if the people at the bus stop are teenagers, for fear that they will create a great disturbance on the bus or not pay the appropriate fare. However, I thought we had learned from our past that it is not fair to discriminate against a specific group, even one of young people. When I wait for the bus, I simply need a source of transportation. Is it fair for a bus driver to think that my purpose for riding the bus is to cause trouble? The MBTA must remember this in the phrase: "Diversity: It's working at the T." Diversity does not only allude to race, but applies also to gender, handicap and *age*. My recommendation is that every time you find that a bus passes you for no legitimate reason, swamp the MBTA with complaints, either with letters or with your physical presence at the MBTA headquarters. Maybe you have a better idea. Who knows? All I know is that a solution to this problem is needed, or we will forever be victims of discrimination.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Know Your Neighbors

By Yuan Zhang, I
Editorial Writer

There is a sex offender in your neighborhood, lurking two blocks outside your white picket fence. The Boston Police department informs you of his presence in a discreet letter to your vicinity, labeling him a Level 3 sex offender. Oh, how nice. What merits this Joe Rapist a Level 3 red flag? For starters, he has a history of 28 rapes of a child under 14, and 24 counts of assault and battery on a minor under 14. It is unclear if he has harassed several different victims or two specifically.

This letter poses several questions. Why is he loose on the streets? With so many violations of the law, why isn't he behind prison bars, getting his just rewards with his fellow inmates? Unfortunately, rape and assault can sometimes earn less jail time than most minor crimes, and attempted rape sometimes earns no jail time at all. When the rapist has earned a Level 3 badge, the punishment should be more severe. If he is "an active threat," as the flier proclaims, and needs the undivided attention of the police department as well as the neighborhood in which he dwells, and if he is as much of a threat as his records indicate, why is he allowed to roam around in my neighborhood — where children are everywhere — with no one responsible for his actions but parents? In the flier I received he was also cited as working less than a mile away from a local K-8 elementary school. Not only did the police department know that he worked there while still reporting him as a dangerous sex offender to every household within a 7.3-mile radius, but he was not fired until someone saw him on the sex offender list. The whole system seems ludicrous. If the state frees a sex offender but mails an entire district, labels him "high risk" while permitting him to work near an elementary school, and in the process gets him fired from his job anyway, all of this absurdity only causes alarm and an unresolved problem in the community.

The issue is not simply whether a pedophile should be free. Believe it or not, it gets more complex. Although Level 3 offenders are not openly posted on the online database of sex offenders, their information is still acquired by many residents through confidential mail. The state chooses not to include them in an online database because in the past such databases have led to retaliatory attacks against many offenders. Reports of job discrimination — and even murders of sex offenders — have recently surfaced. Many ex-convicts demand their privacy as a result of such backlash; they say that they are continually paying for their past crimes. Nevertheless, they should be denied such a right on the basis of the general public's right to know, and the law requires that such pedophiles should be reported to local schools, neighborhoods, and other establishments in which children may be present.

Rapists and assaulters should be more severely punished by the law, especially if they are still active in their offenses. They should in all circumstances be imprisoned for their crimes. Such a system would be more just and more effective. If rapists were confined in prison and received psychological attention, they would not pose such a high risk to the community, and would not be at such a high risk themselves.

Legalization of Marijuana



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Pro

By Erin Durkin, I
Assistant Forum Editor

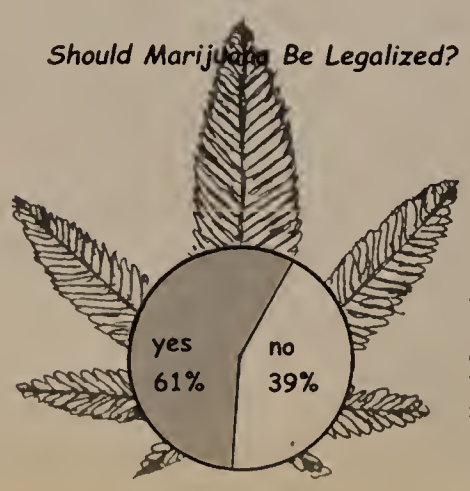
In a free society, the government has no responsibility and, indeed, no right to protect citizens from themselves. Individuals have the right to live essentially however they choose, provided that their pursuit of happiness does not interfere with that of anyone else. When an individual smokes marijuana, he is hurting no one but himself. For that reason alone, marijuana should be legalized.

In case you are not convinced, let's take a look at the main arguments used by those who want to keep marijuana illegal. Yes, the drug can have harmful effects on a user's health, but it is not mortally dangerous. It has not been proven to be addictive, and a user would have to smoke 60 joints in one sitting in order to overdose. On those rare occasions where someone dies as a result of smoking pot, the death is usually caused by another substance with which the marijuana was laced. If marijuana were legalized, it would be much easier to regulate it and make sure it isn't laced with more dangerous drugs. If "It isn't good for you" were reason enough to ban a product, cigarettes, alcohol and supersized McDonald's Value Meals would all be illegal. Indeed, it is fundamentally inconsistent that cigarettes and alcohol, which kill millions of people every year, are deemed by the government acceptable vices, while marijuana, which is much less dangerous, remains illegal.

Another common argument states that marijuana is a "gateway drug," leading users to try increasingly lethal substances. This theory is certainly debatable, but, for the sake of argument, let's assume that it is true. If pot is a gateway drug, this is the case precisely because it is illegal. In order to get marijuana, one has to enter into the underworld of drug culture, and, once one has crossed this threshold, hard drug use becomes more likely. If marijuana were legal, available over the counter in every convenience store, taking the drug pushers out of the picture, the correlation with hard drug use would cease to exist. The same goes for an anti-marijuana argument the government likes to use: that by purchasing marijuana users are supporting terrorist groups. This, too, is true precisely because marijuana is illegal. When a substance is criminalized, only criminals are able to supply it. If people could grow weed in their backyards, they wouldn't have to buy it from terrorists and vicious drug cartels.

In a free society, the government should not need a reason to make something legal—it should need a reason to make something illegal. In the case of marijuana, such a reason does not exist. Additionally, positive good would result from legalization. All the money currently spent fighting a largely ineffective drug war and locking up people found carrying "dime bags" could be diverted to more urgent problems, such as terrorism, or used for education, health care, debt reduction and any number of other worthy causes. Further, legalized marijuana could be taxed, raising more revenue for financially-strapped state and federal governments.

Prohibition showed us that outlawing something people want simply doesn't work. Human nature prompts us to forever reach for the forbidden fruit — to crave what we aren't supposed to have. Smoking pot is a fairly stupid thing to do, but people do it anyway. They will continue to do it no matter what the law says, and they aren't hurting anyone but themselves. The government should abandon its fruitless fight against pot and put its time and money to use where they are really needed.



BY MAXWELL DANDRIDGE, II

Con

By Bora Plaku, II
Copy Editor

Marijuana. Weed. Pot. Cannabis. The most common drug out there is known by many names. To the kids in Harvard Square, it is both a means of recreation and a way to forget, or of coming into contact with other, even more dangerous, illegal substances. Yet there are those who would make this drug legal, available by prescription to everyone. Even now, the legal debate is unsettled. Is it a good idea or a bad one? No consensus has been reached up to date.

The men who support the pro-legalization movement argue that the drug's potential benefits to humanity as a whole weigh more heavily than its destructive effects on the many kids smoking joints on the streets. To give them their due, they do have a partial point. Indeed, marijuana's benefits are by no means understated. Likewise, research has shown that it is less addictive and less damaging than alcohol.

The question, therefore, comes back to this: why is marijuana illegal? I believe it is because the havoc it can wreak far outweighs any benefits derived from it. While this addictive drug is not associated with any major health diseases, three joints contain more tar, thus causing more damage than twenty cigarettes. Therefore, long-term use may prove highly damaging to the lungs, causing problems like bronchitis, emphysema, and even lung cancer. Along that same vein, there are higher concentrations of the carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in marijuana smoke than in that of tobacco, serving to further increase the risk of serious lung disease. When used as a recreational drug, it causes haziness and lightheadedness, increased awareness of sound and color, and feelings of relaxation and cheerfulness. While small doses can have these "desirable" effects on one's system, the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol nevertheless minimizes the actions of the receptor cells of the brain (neurotransmitters) and impedes normal brain function. Finally, when taken in high doses, especially in conjunction with alcohol, it can result in paranoia, short-term memory loss, and reduced coordination, while repeated and long-term use causes permanent, severe memory loss, impairs learning abilities, lowers testosterone levels in men (and enhances them in women), and disrupts the control of blood pressure, which increases the risk of fainting. Last but not least, it is psychologically addictive, causing displays of violence, especially among heavy users, when the drug's supply is cut off.

But the "pros" argue that, if it becomes a certified drug, it will no longer be sold on the streets. I do not think so, because when it was first prescribed (and yes, there was a time when marijuana was legal in the United States), a survey conducted by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs reported it as an extremely addictive substance. It was then criminalized after the infamous mass addiction rates of the 50's and 60's. Picture this not-so-far-fetched scenario: a glaucoma patient on prescribed marijuana is suddenly taken off of it. His body has come to need it, but he can no longer get it from his doctor. So, he turns to the street, where the "industry" continues to thrive on the money of people like that unfortunate man, who, were it not for the prescription, would never have come into contact with the drug. Since street marijuana is considered a "gateway drug" (for it is not only laced with heroin, but also distributed by the same dealers who sell LSD and other more lethal substances) that same glaucoma patient may come into contact with these drugs as well.

Recently, medical experts have developed a pill which contains THC. The pill, advertised as a "safer" way of getting the same medicinal benefits as those of marijuana, is available by prescription in the United States as well as in Britain.

Nevertheless, we are faced with somber truths: whether "good" or not, the fact remains that marijuana use in the United States is nowadays more popular than surfing the net. Indeed, the guinea pigs, the teens spending their parents' money to kill their memories and lose their motor skills, are common enough. And I firmly believe that, as new ways of getting the same "beneficiary" results of cannabis are currently in the process of development, a rapidly degenerating society such as ours, filled with radical Goths and teens who "just don't care" does not need to legalize an addictive drug that would only contribute to its downfall by further addicting and rotting the brains of its youth, and thus

Forum Question

Should marijuana be legalized?



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"Yes, because it is good for medicinal purposes and it is not as bad as cigarettes, which are legal."
-Jayce G, I



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"Yes, because they legalize other soft drugs like alcohol and cigarettes. It is not "technically" physically addictive like nicotine in cigarettes."
-Stacey Phillips, II



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"Yes, because it is needed for medicinal purposes. There is no information that it is really harmful. It is far less harmful than cigarettes."
-Jariel Arvin, III



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"Only if it is going to be used medicinally or in steps in rehab."
-Alec Maure , IV



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"Against because it is really addictive and it destroys lives. And I know people whose lives have been destroyed by it."



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

"No, marijuana is bad for your body."
-Winnie Chen, VI

Editorial

Editorials written by
Ian Chong, I
Erin Durkin, I
Frankline Ho, II
Opinions are those of the Editorial Board

Got toilet paper?

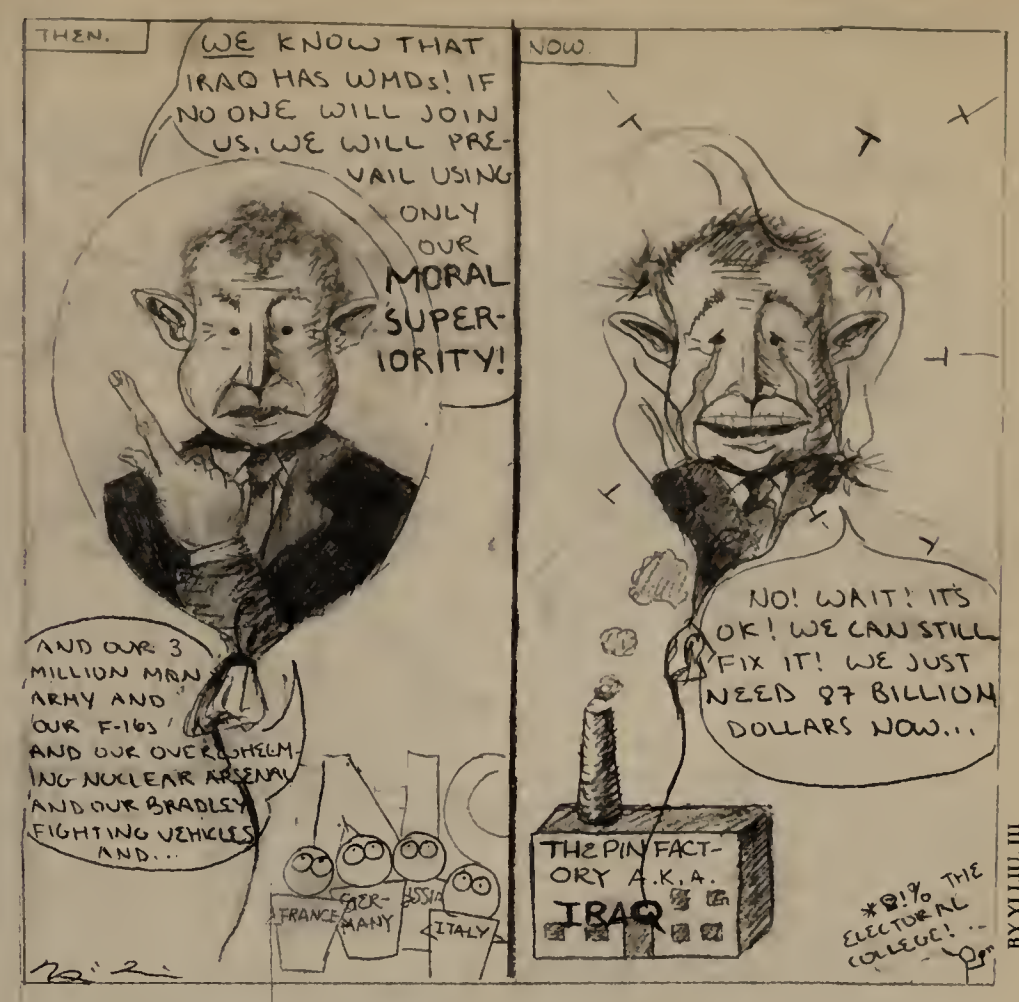
Have you ever looked on the back of your "T" pass? It says, "valid until 8.00 p.m.": aren't you grateful for that on those nights when you go home late because of a project, an event, or (in the case of the people here at the *Argo*), Final Fridays? You can thank the Boston-Area Youth Organizing Project for this. Never heard of it? That is to be expected: it is no longer effective at Boston Latin School.

The BYOP is an altruistic organization similar to S.E.A.L. or Key Club, but its members focus on the completion of large projects affecting the people of Greater Boston as a whole. They have lowered the voting age in Cambridge, attained $1 million for school textbook shortages, and secured funding from government and community leaders for this summer's youth oriented jobs. Among all its projects, the one that has had the greatest influence on Boston Latin School was the improvement of our bathrooms.

As hard as it is to believe, the bathrooms used to be much more dilapidated. Three years ago the Boston Latin chapter of the BYOP called in the Boston Public Health Commission to see if the restrooms were up to code. They found almost no toilet paper, paper towels, or soap in any of the bathrooms. This was in violation of the health codes partially created by BYOP two years before. Needless to say, the BLS administration was cornered into cleaning up the restrooms; it is because of the BYOP that the lavatories are not in a state of complete disrepair.

Shortly after the BYOP reported the inadequate conditions of the bathrooms to the city, adult leader Liz Steinhauser, one of the adult leaders, was banned from the school premises. Deprived of her leadership, the BYOP at Boston Latin School essentially withered away. Steinhauser was ejected on the grounds that she was just using the chapter to make a name for herself. According to the administration, a BYOP still exists at Boston Latin School. However, it is not connected with the broader Greater Boston organization and it has not been able to effect much change at the school since Steinhauser's expulsion.

In alerting the Health Commission to the condition of the bathrooms, the BYOP was acting in the best interests of the student body. The administration, on the other hand, does not appear to have had the students' interests at heart when it expelled the group's leader — it was unreasonably overreacting because it was far too concerned with its otherwise spotless reputation. The BYOP did not hurt the school, but improved it; in return it was rendered useless by the administration for revealing the violation of health codes for which the school should have already been responsible. Not one student would disagree that a little embarrassment to such an "upstanding institution" was justified in exchange for better health facilities, and the administration had no cause to meddle in students' affairs.



Bush's Big Lie

As the chaos immediately following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein fades into a new sort of normalcy in Iraq, as our troops stationed in that country strive to restore running water and electrical power and to avoid attack by guerrillas bearing rocket-propelled grenades, and as Americans' interests drift away from war and towards such topics as next year's elections and the next round of *"American Idol,"* it has become increasingly clear that the case President Bush used to persuade us to invade Iraq in the first place was flawed at best, and purposely misleading at worst. The American people were told that Hussein possessed weapons that were a dire threat to our safety. In the four months since the war ended, however, no weapons have been found. On October 2, the American investigators sent to Iraq to find them came back with a report stating that no chemical or biological weapons had been made since before the 1991 Gulf War. We were led to believe that the Ba'athist regime in Iraq collaborated with terrorists. According to a Washington Post poll, 69 percent falsely believed that Hussein was involved in the September 11 attacks. We were led into war on false pretenses, and this is unacceptable.

The most notorious instance of misleading information dispensed by the Bush administration came in the president's State of the Union address. In 16 words that have become infamous, Bush said, "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." Had this statement been true, it would have indicated that the Iraqi dictator was gathering materials for nuclear weapons. As it turned out, however, the uranium claim was based on forged documents. Neither an investigatory trip to Niger, the African country in question, by the Central Intelligence Agency representative Joseph Wilson, which produced no evidence to support the allegation, nor a statement by Bush's own State Department that the uranium story was "highly dubious," stopped Bush from including the claim in his State of the Union address, presenting it to both Congress and the American people as a valid reason to go to war.

Nor was this the only incident in which Bush, seeking to convince the American people that the invasion of Iraq was necessitated by national security concerns, exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction — often making statements which contradicted his own administration's intelligence reports. Many such reports, available to the White House at the time war was being debated but only recently released to the pubic, reveal that the CIA and other agencies entertained serious doubts regarding Bush's *casus belli*. Last October, the President quoted Iraqi defector Hussein Kamel as saying that his country had possessed hordes of biological weapons. Bush neglected to mention the second half of Kamel's statement—that these weapons had been destroyed. In a speech to a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vice President Dick Cheney asserted that "we know now that Saddam has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons," grossly exaggerating a contemporaneous CIA report that stated "procurement activity in recent years *may* be supporting a reconstituted nuclear weapons program." Cheney removed the ambiguities in the CIA's opinion to give the case for war a level of clarity that did not exist in real life. In an even worse misrepresentation of intelligence information, Secretary of State Colin Powell told Fox News that "there is no doubt" that Baghdad "has chemical weapons stocks." The very same month, the Defense Intelligence Agency had issued a report saying "There is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing or stockpiling chemical weapons."

These and other statements add up to a disturbing pattern of deceit on the part of the Bush administration. Opinion polls at the time of the war showed that a majority of Americans supported the invasion, and Congress overwhelmingly voted to authorize the use of force against Hussein. We cannot leave Iraq in shambles, and so we now have little choice but to support Bush as he asks for more and more money to support reconstruction. Yet in hindsight, it is clear that the public's pro-war sentiment was based on faulty information dispensed by and on behalf of President Bush. It is hard to decide which alternative is more disturbing—that Bush knew the statements he was making were false and did not care, or that he did not know at all, simply reading what was put in front of him without bothering to wonder whether it were true. Either way, the fact remains that the President misled the American people not over some inconsequential detail or some aspect of his personal life, but over the most serious decision an individual in his office has to make: the decision to send American troops into harm's way. Americans should demand answers from the Bush Administration over why they were misled regarding the Iraq situation. They should take the President's misrepresentations into account when deciding whether or not to believe anything they hear him say in the future.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

College Preparatory?

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it" -Albert Einstein

"Four AP classes are the maximum!" is often the repudiating remark for those who request to fill their schedules with AP courses. APs, otherwise known as Advanced Placement courses, are classes that prepare one for a College Board examination, a decent score on which may provide possible college credit. However, with the possibility of being able to forego certain college requirements comes a rigorous and taxing course as teachers rush to cram as much information as possible into one's head before the first week of May.

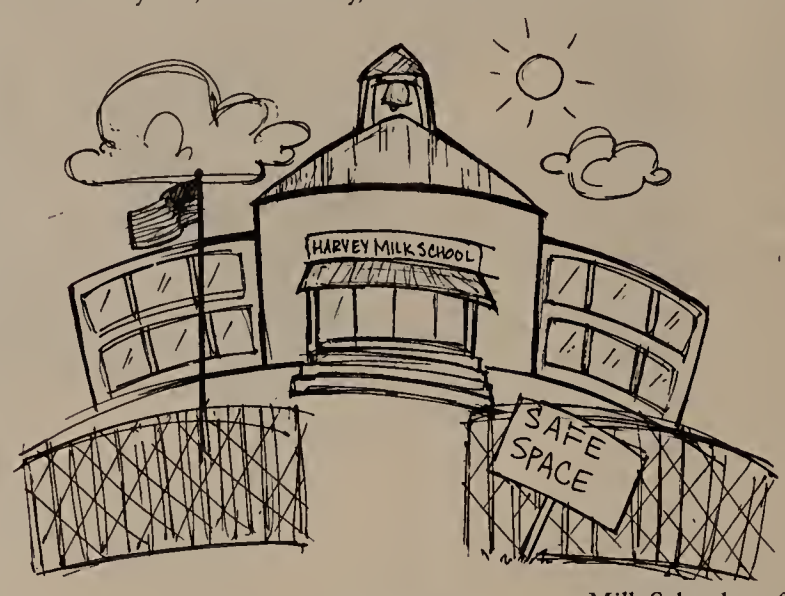
No one has taken issue with the AP curriculum, but rather with the limitations that the administration has set on the number of APs allowed. AP courses are for those who choose to take them, and thus students should be allowed to take as many as they wish. Although the intentions of the administration are clear — they wish to not have students overburden themselves with pressure — students should not have an AP limit. If they wish to be an "AP soldier," then why restrict them? Even if students find the material too difficult to handle, they can always transfer out of the class. Also, isn't our school billed as a "college preparatory school?" Isn't the goal of our school to prepare us for the college that we are going to go to? If so, isn't it only right that we be able to face and learn to cope with pressure? Taking on more pressure will only help make students stronger and more prepared for college. Thus, the BLS student body will be more ready for any college course if students are able to enroll in as many AP classes as they wish.

For Safety's Sake

Anneke Schwob

Faggot. Dyke. Fruit. Homo. Lesbo. Queer... Matthew Shepard. The young man brutally murdered in October of 1998, beaten, crucified and left to die, for the "crime" of being openly gay. The incident shocked the nation, raising new awareness about anti-gay hate crimes and discrimination against homosexuals. Although this particular crime stands out for its cruelty and violence, anti-gay sentiment and low-key harassment are still rife in our culture. No one should be expected to willingly subject their children, no matter what their sexual orientation, to persecution and hatred on a day-to-day basis.

Unfortunately, this harassment is par for the course for many openly gay and lesbian students. According to the Sexual Information and Education Council of the United States, 69 percent of gay high school-aged students report being victims of some form of harassment or violence at school. An even greater percentage, 86.7 percent, report hearing some form of homophobic slur on a daily basis. In response, a group of parents lobbied on behalf of their children, and in 1984 the Harvey Milk School of New York City was founded. Its mission statement: to provide a safe environment in which students can learn, regardless of (and without harassment because of) sexual orientation. The Harvey Milk continued quietly along its philanthropic way for about 20 years, until recently, when it once more appeared in the news, having just been approved for a $3.2 million dollar expansion and renovation. This new blaze of publicity has served to raise many questions about the ethics of having such a school in a public school system.



Many of those who oppose the school do not do so because of any overt homophobia, but rather ask the question: how can gay and lesbian students learn to live in a predominantly straight world if they are segregated from the very community they will have to face for most of their adult life? Just as importantly, how can straight students learn tolerance and acceptance for gay culture if they are rarely exposed to it? Valid points both, but they fail to take into account the very founding principle of the Harvey Milk School – safety. For every ten or so open, accepting students, there will be the one who, through a combination of societal brainwashing, upbringing, and simple hate can't stand the "homos," and is willing to act on it. For all the students waiting with open minds and arms, there are those who are waiting with spray paint, broken glass, and sticks. In the end, it is the broken glass that leaves the most permanent scars. Can we in good conscience sacrifice the safety of the individual for the principles of society?

The Harvey Milk School is many things. It is a safe haven for the persecuted, it is a feather in the hat of many gay rights activists, it is a relief for both the students and their parents, a place where they can undertake the "business of education" free from fear. It is all of these, but it must also be a start towards rebuilding bridges between the gay and straight communities. Those who claim that we cannot build an open, accepting society while actively condoning segregation are right. The Harvey Milk School cannot act as a permanent refuge from the world. It can, and must, function as a bridge. The first duty of the school must be to remove the tormented from places of persecution to a safe environment. Then, the school has an equal responsibility to open lines of communication, so that a tolerant society may arise through education. The Harvey Milk School has a daunting task before it, and it has made a good start. But it is only a start.

Anneke Schwob is a member of Class III.

A Moral Compass

Caitlin McGovern

Recently my government class discussed whether or not the Founding Fathers would have wanted our government to reinforce morals and virtues in our society. We voted and found that the majority of students believed that, first, the Founding Fathers would not have wanted their government to enforce morality and virtue, and, second, the current government should not interfere with society's morality. Yes, it is true that the Founding Fathers did not want the government to interfere with an individual's moral compass, but they lived in an entirely different time.

They lived in an era in which morals were thoroughly instilled in each individual. They did not need the government to watch over its citizens and ensure that each practiced morality. If citizens broke the "code of morality", then they would be ostracized by society. Furthermore, they lived in a time when a limited number of religions was practiced in this country, and most people spent their Sundays in their houses of worship, where morality was preached from the pulpit.

It's important to remember not to judge the world from the womb of Boston Latin School, in which most of us are polite and conscientious. The outside world is bereft of even the simplest courtesies in epidemic proportions. The increase in crime is directly related to the moral breakdown of America. Once we remove the collective conscience of what is right and of what is wrong, we are left with rampant mayhem and violence.

I would say that our world has changed quite a bit since our nation's beginnings. Today, we are given many more freedoms regarding the infusion of our society with a collective moral compass. We practice the "hands-off" approach, in which the parents are given the sole responsibility of providing their children with a moral guide. We have the option of sending children to private schools, where through such subjects as religion, morals are introduced to students. Finally, we could simply let children follow their own moral compass.

I think that these options are much too weak. We live in a society in which crime is rampant, much more so than in the time of the Founding Fathers. Just the other night, there was a stabbing and three shootings leaving one dead and eight injured, in a single night, in a single city. Imagine what the total number of murders and attempted murders are nationwide in one night. We cannot expect parents, who work sixty-hour weeks, sometimes with multiple jobs, to bear the sole responsibility for instilling morality and virtue in their children, especially when parents are competing with increasingly violent and explicit movies, television, and video games.

So one's first question is, How could one encourage morals in society? Well, one could teach them in school, which may sound fairly simple. In today's world, however, it is considered an infringement on individual rights. To think that a teacher cannot tell a child what is right and wrong seems completely absurd, but it happens.

In fact, Joe Fitzgerald quotes Chuck Colson in a recent article in the *Boston Herald* as he retells a conversation with a warden of a prominent house of correction: "Ten years ago," this warden told him, "when kids would come in off the streets, I could talk to them about right and wrong. But these kids coming in now have no idea what I'm talking about. In fact, the biggest administration problem I have in this penitentiary is older inmates seeking to be protected from the younger ones. Historically, the biggest problem was protecting kids from the older cons. Now it's exactly the reverse; these kids coming in are far more dangerous than the convicts already in prison."

Unless we as a society teach morality in schools, our government will be left with no choice but to expand upon its reach of "law and order,"and impose a myriad of new laws incorporating stricter guidelines between right and wrong.

Caitlin McGovern is a member of Class I.

Taking the Upper Hand

Isaac Meister

In the beginning, there was a phrase. The phrase was this: "for our national security."

Since the time when some faceless bureaucrat, some careful speechwriter instituted that phrase, countless acts considered reprehensible by some and at least questionable by many have been committed. Documents can be sealed and presses can be stopped. The lips of questioning critics are silenced. At such a point, madness is allowed to begin.

On the September 13, 2003, the Israeli government announced that, with the majority approval of the Prime Minister's cabinet, the assassination of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat would be "an option." The governing body of a first-world, Westernized country endorses the murder of a man deemed inconvenient for the purposes of negotiation, the leader of an ethnic group numbering almost three million individuals, and the United States does nothing more than issue a prepared press statement. Meanwhile, 24-foot concrete walls are being put up in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, covered in barbed wire and patrolled by Israeli soldiers with guns. No boundaries have been decided by the international community, and their erection separates Palestinian villages into islands from which there is no escape. Children are killed in daily border conflicts. All this is justified by the excuse of "national security." The State of Israel has lost its way.



But why should you, the reader, care? What do the various goings-on, albeit bloody ones, in a place so far removed from your home, matter to you? For in the eyes of a population quickly approaching two billion people, the so-called "Arab world", the actions of Israel are linked directly and concretely with that of America, creating the very same resentment that has given birth to the fanatics responsible for the attacks of 9/11 two years ago. If one were to descend to a street in Cairo, to go to a market in Riyadh, or to a coffeehouse in Jakarta, one would find that any discussion involving the United States involves Israeli atrocities towards the Palestinians. But why?

The United States has been the principal benefactor of the State of Israel since its founding in 1948. At the time the Jews, decimated by Hitler's holocaust and desperate for a homeland, were granted land in the Middle East under British administration since the close of World War I. No one could deny then – and should not deny now – that they have the right to live there. The United States rightfully supported them. Now, 55 years later, with Israel a first-world nation with a billion-dollar economy and one of the most technologically advanced nations in the world, it is time to examine their actions as we would our own, since our two nations have been linked from Israel's very beginning.

Blessed with land made fertile by the hands of the Israelis themselves, a population second to none in its diversity, and receiving $2.7 billion annually from the United States in military aid, I call upon Israel to take the upper hand. The pattern of suicide bombing and heavy-handed, occupational reprisal must end, and Israel, as the region's self-proclaimed "beacon of democracy," must rise to meet that challenge. Let there be an end to the eye-for-an-eye justice enforced by Israel after every suicide bombing, and the bombings will end. Let there be an end to assassinations of members of Palestinian government, and denouncements from the mosque will end. Let there be an honest effort to return the West Bank to its original inhabitants, removing the land from radical and violent settlers, and the conflict will end. Only with mutual understanding and the extension of benevolent justice can the Middle East hope for peace. A weak "road map" enforced by a biased government will not work. And let us Americans support an equitable system of resolution, and the anger we so fear in the "Arab street" will abate. As a loyal American and a devout Jew I understand the need for compromise: I only hope the rest of the world will stop hurling labels and tags such as "terrorist" and "national security" so that anger and hatred, factionalism and warmongering rhetoric may cease.

Isaac Meister is a member of Class II.

Attack on File Sharing

The End Justifies the Means...

By Ulrike Kraeft, II
Staff Writer

According to recent reports, file sharing has increased dramatically in the past few years. Most internet users, especially teenagers, who download music onto their computers know that what they are doing is illegal, but they continue to evade the law. Now that the new lawsuits are aimed specifically at users and not the file-trading software companies who make the songs available, thought has to be given to the consequences of these actions. One has to keep in mind that music is a form of art that has been produced not only for pleasure but also for business. Every business has a right to defend itself. Right now, lawsuits, although flawed, are the only defense the music industry has.

According to the Recording Industry Association of America, sales related to the music industry have sagged in the past three years. Those sales have usually supported the industry in order to contract new artists, cover losses and develop a better business. If the music world is deprived of its money supply, a lot of talent could potentially remain undiscovered.



COURTESY OF SHARMAN NETWORKS, LTD.

Some argue that the stars get too much money from the music industry. Though that's partly true, the music industry pays much less to all the developing talents around the world. If music sales continue to drop, those artists who have yet to "come out big" may have their meager flow of cash cut off completely. On the other hand, a lot of resources, time, money, effort and people go into the development of any large industry.

Beyond the ethics of file sharing, there is also the notion that the companies who bring out the songs have invested a great deal of time and money. The CDs themselves had to be developed and perfected over many years by engineers, evolving from long-playing records and tape players. Consider the development of a single little pill in the drug industry. Drug companies also have to use many resources to create specific medicine: it has to be tested, approved, mass-produced and, finally, sold to the public. Often, the cost of prescription drugs is very high, to the anger of many people in need. Similarly, people have an aversion to high CD prices, which has led to illegal music sharing.

Simply charging a reasonable rate per song seems like a "happy medium". There are already such services on the market. Few people, however, utilize them, seeing as there are still programs that can obtain music cost-free. The RIAA is simply trying to eliminate illegal, unjust programs that benefit only the listener, in favor of a situation that will allow for some form of profit for those who create the music.

Some think that the music industry only wants more money; obviously money is a large component. It is, in fact, an industry - a business. It needs the money we pay for music to manufacture CDs, organize tours and concerts, promote or scout new talents, among other things. We enjoy the music that is produced; we should pay for the goods and services we want. To reap the benefits of music that costs money for the industry to produce and promote, without contributing something to further the production of more music, injures the industry and will ultimately injure those on both sides of this music sharing argument. Current methods may be flawed and harsh, but something has to be done if this issue is ever to be seriously confronted. Measures taken, suits filed, though drastic, can at least draw attention to the serious problems of file sharing and make people think twice about actions that harm an industry promoting music, an art form that is obviously important to sharers and the business alike.

RIAA Scare Tactics

By Victoria Bartolome, II
Staff Writer

It is hard to find anyone who could resist the scandalous trend that, in the eyes of the recording industry, has apparently gone too far: pirating music. Although one such means, the KaZaA network, is still running, recently many people have deleted it from their computers. KaZaA is the latest popular peer-to-peer file-sharing program. Those who have taken advantage of the privilege of pirating media from the beginning, with programs such as Napster and Audiogalaxy, are now familiar with the frequent shutdown of these networks, which merely compels users to seek other file-sharing programs. The current imposition of lawsuits, however, against the network by the Recording Industry Association of America has been, until now, unheard of.

Yet, there have been some who have found the lawsuits absurd, as one upperclassman, Bobby Zheng (II) puts it: "There are like 5 million people on KaZaA. What are they gonna do, sue all of us?" Also, some people have downloaded only about 40 or 50 songs off of KaZaA, and feel that they won't, or at least shouldn't, be targeted. However, 261 people have been targeted, and the RIAA's hit list has been updated to over 911 users. The big question is: Is it right for the RIAA to be filing all these lawsuits?

When the RIAA files lawsuits, they base their targets on lists of media files found on users' computers. Their system, however, doesn't search deep enough into the nature of the file and more importantly, doesn't consider its intent. A few months ago, the RIAA sent a legal notice to Pennsylvania State University, allegedly accusing them for establishing an FTP (file transfer protocol) site from which users could download songs by the musical artist, Usher. It turned out the name "Usher" was not that of the famous singer, but of Professor Peter Usher. The software that the RIAA uses to find file lists found the name "Usher" and files ending in ".mp3", and, as it is programmed to do, immediately labeled it as another crime of piracy, making Penn State one of the RIAA's targets. Obviously, the RIAA's targeting process is flawed, and they should fix it or find a more accurate way of targeting users. It's somewhat twisted that in their mission to catch evil file sharers, they continue to use a process that can target innocent people.

The RIAA also seems to have no sympathy or consideration toward the personal nature of their cases. One such case is of a 12-year-old girl, Brianna LaHara from New York City. She paid $30 for KaZaA's service and mistook this as a fee allowing her to download songs. She downloaded theme songs from television shows such as *"Full House,"* and children's songs such as "If You're Happy And You Know It Clap Your Hands." Her mother makes the point that this really is not a big threat though the RIAA labels her as a "major offender" to the music industry. On the other end of the age spectrum, a 71-year-old grandfather was served a lawsuit by the RIAA for the distribution and downloading of files on the server that not he, but his grandsons executed on his computer. The grandfather doesn't use KaZaA at all, and may not have even known clearly what it is, but is being targeted because the files that were found are technically his.

Clearly, the process that the RIAA uses to file all of their lawsuits is not a legitimate way to convict people, as it potentially leads to targeting the innocent. It isn't fair that many people commit the same "crime", and yet only selected individuals face consequences. Then there's the issue of purpose. Even though the RIAA still makes a large profit from the music industry, their goal is to try to prevent the decline in music sales. If the RIAA sues these people, will music sales really improve as intended? The RIAA is using KaZaA and other file-sharing companies as a scapegoat for its own lack of performance and as a means of obtaining more money. In reality, however, by filing all these suits, they are just losing consumers by creating hostility. There have been massive calls to boycott the RIAA: now damage is done on both sides. Let's assume that file sharing IS a crime; many of us are aware of this when we share files. Despite the fact that RIAA may be justified in the concept of tracking down "criminals," their flawed method has caused the issue to become a ridiculous ordeal.

The RIAA approached file sharing the wrong way, and has created a situation in which they will make money, but not progress. Even though many now fear the idea of downloading from KaZaA, it is not hard to find a host of other options, such as Morpheus, WinMX, and the more complex mIRC. Many are now anti-RIAA because of their irrational aggression, and record sales will most likely stay the same, if not worsen. As one file sharer put it regarding the RIAA's reaction to the file sharing networks: "This isn't going to go away. All they'll end up doing is screwing the music companies, screwing the artists and screwing themselves."

McBride's Words of Wisdom

By Yucong Ma, III
Staff Writer

On the second day of school this year, while most Boston Latin School students were still yawning through a two-hour homeroom period, the members of the BLS Jazz Band, Concert Choir and Gospel Choir, were assembled in the auditorium for a lecture and performance by James McBride, the renowned jazz musician, composer, songwriter, and best-selling author of *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute To His White Mother*. McBride has been best known for this book, which has sold over 2.5 million copies.

The author began with an easygoing conversation about his childhood, and the events that shaped his adult life. McBride discussed his family and education, sharing his secrets for success and engaging the audience as only a skilled storyteller can. Making morally-right decisions, as well as taking advantage of [the audience's] time was on top of his list. "You have to stand up and represent something, as young people," McBride stated. He also gave advice to writers. "Writing is just research and rewriting," he said, emphasizing it many times. McBride's rise from his humble beginnings is an inspiring story. After being a truant in his high-school years, he graduated from college and worked at the *Boston Globe* as well as the *Washington Post* before pursuing music as a career. Race is also an important factor in McBride's life. The son of a black man and a white woman, he faced the barriers of prejudice and overcame them to become the wildly successful man he is today, having written award-winning songs for Anita Baker and Grover Washington Jr.

Mr. Pitts, the head of the Arts department at BLS who also helped organize this event, felt that McBride's words were inspiring, and the messages that he brought across were important for kids at Boston Latin School to understand. "They need to hear that it's okay for them to fail something. It doesn't mean they should try to fail, but that you just have to go back and hit it harder the next time around." Mr. Pitts also emphasized that McBride is someone to whom kids can relate, because the musician revealed an imperfect, troubled, but very real past. After the lecture was over, McBride introduced the five other members of his band. They began to play several pieces of fast-moving jazz and soulful, soft ballads. McBride himself played the saxophone, and his talented band members accompanied on the piano, bass guitar, drums, rattles, and other instruments, astounding the audience and drawing thunderous applause from the students for their skill and appeal. Such an amazing performance will not be easily forgotten at Boston Latin School.



COURTESY OF MR. SIMMONS

Spotlight
Jose Santiago



BY LEAH SKAHEN, 11

By Emilia Zambrano, I
Contributing Writer

Jose. Ah, Jose. Jose Alexis Santiago - we simply cannot forget that accent. How could I possibly describe such a gentleman? Yes, a gentleman. He's incredibly nice. How could I possibly squeeze such a character into this tiny column? I have had the privilege and honor of being a close companion of his since the summer before seventh grade; I never imagined what an energetic and charismatic beacon he would become in six years.

Whatever Jose does he does passionately. He puts in 110 percent and gets almost no sleep - which is probably why he gets sick so often. Jose has made himself a staple in the Arts department: his commitment and emotion prove that he truly loves and respects the arts.

Jose's interest in music began in the first grade, when he started to play the flute. He continued practicing it until the sixth grade and joined the Boston Latin School Football Band in 10th grade. His desire to further pursue music led him to the String department at Latin, in which he started playing the cello. He started taking private lessons at the Community Music Center of Boston to further improve his technique, later taking other courses as well: he joined their Chamber Orchestra, took theory and performance courses, and was in the production of their operetta *"The Pirates of Penzance"* as part of the Gilbert & Sullivan opera group. One of his most notable performances was "The Swan" from Saint-Saens' *"The Carnival of the Animals,"* which he performed for his AP Writing class last year. He restarted Chamber Ensemble along with Natasha Ramanayake and has been co-president of it since ninth grade, conducting several pieces in 10th grade. He is also a member of the BLS Encore Quintet.

His never-ending love for music and dance led him to Show Choir, which he joined in 11th grade, and of which he became Co-President. Yes, Jose also dances. He has taken ballet, jazz, and modern, and last year he was in Step Squad. You can't expect someone with such flair and gorgeous hips not to dance. Why would Jose be done there? Just music and dance? I think not. He's also done theatre! In tenth grade he played Donald in the BLS Center Stage Production of *"You Can't Take It With You."* He was the assistant stage manager of the Guild production *"T.V.,"* and did costumes and make-up for the musical *"The Little Shop of Horrors."* Last year he played Angel in an outside production of *"Rent"* during the summer and also did costumes for the Guild play *"The Dining Room."* Recently he was chosen to perform in *"The Laramie Project"*, this year's fall play.

Not only an arts enthusiast, Jose is also an amazing writer and a prolific linguist. He took AP Writing last year and plans on pursuing a career in journalism. He is fluent in four languages — Spanish, Italian, English and French — and is literate in Romanian and Portuguese. So many amazing talents for such a great and lovable person — simply and profoundly, Jose.

Changes i

Photo Program in the Dark?

By Katie MacDonald, I
Staff Writer

It is not news to the Boston Latin School community that budget cuts have had a noticeable effect on all of our programs. We are affected by them constantly, and this is shown not only in large class sizes and teacher cuts but also very clearly in the arts programs. Across-the-board funding cuts have presented difficulties to the area, causing confusion throughout the department.

This is especially true involving the photography program, where there is confusion as to the use of the darkroom. Mr. Warren, the photography class instructor and the former advisor for the photography club, is no longer at BLS. Contrary to what many might think, this was not actually a result of the budget cuts. Mr. Warren had alumni funding that was redirected at a bad time, when budget cuts were already causing problems. The darkroom has not been touched since last year, and still contains some unclaimed student work.

Currently, there is no option for students wishing to take photography class until a new teacher is found. I spoke with Nicole Senecal (I), photography club president, who said that Mr. Pitts is "working hard to get someone to fund another teacher." She also talked about how her photography club is planning to keep things going for those students that want to be involved in photography at school: "I do want to try to accommodate the club as well as the people from the classes who want to stay involved in photography, but you need to be committed. Do not just join photography club to put it on your résumé." Once or twice a month, there will be an open darkroom setting for completion of development work. Those interested in this must sign up ahead of time, and must wish to do serious work, not to play around. Mr. Byron has agreed to advise the photography club, which will meet after school on Thursdays in the photography lab. The club plans to take a step forward by putting up in advance a schedule of workshops, letting people know what photography club will be doing on a particular week; thus they may choose to attend when a subject interests them, and not to attend when they are not interested.



If there is a subject that many people seem to be interested in, it will cover a two-week period, and students can attend at their convenience.

Those students interested in photography club should stop by the meetings after school on Thursdays with questions. Mr. Pitts continues to work hard to make sure students can have the option of photography, and we can only hope that a new photography teacher is hired as soon as possible so that classes may resume.

Lights Out For Drama

By Qingni Lin, II
Staff Writer

Although Boston Latin School has been cushioned against the brutal effects of the enormous budget cuts relative to other schools in Boston, we are beginning to see its negative effects, especially in the drama section of the fine arts department. This year, the entire fine arts budget, which is stretched thinly over visual arts, theater arts, and vocal and instrumental arts, is being reduced over 40 percent from $39,000 to $25,000. This budget, used as a stipend for teachers of the arts for their commitment and time after school, will be reduced from the $7,000 allotted to the theater department to only $4,000. According to Mr. Pitts of the music department, who leads the fundraising campaign for the entire Arts department, "it's the same amount of work paid less: what can you do?"

The budget cuts have affected not only the teachers, but also the gifted students of the BLS improv group and drama club. According to Ms. Teasdale, faculty advisor for both the improv group and the drama club, Boston Latin School has hired BLS alumnus John Baker '00 in past years to help with the drama productions around December on part of the stipend. Now, with a cut of $3,000 in the drama budget, there is no money to hire an outside person. When asked whether the budget cut would influence the drama club's performance, one of the producers of the drama club, Dave Toro (II), replied, "I don't think it will affect our competition so much because our performance focuses on how hard we as students work." Mr. Pitts likewise maintains that the students will not be affected much by the cuts, as most of the funding for costumes and sets comes from ticket sales.



To compensate for the enormous hole made in the teachers' salaries, Mr. Pitts has written grants to certain companies and has come up with an idea of how students of the arts could help levy the monetary burden on their teachers. He plans to ask each student who takes any form of art to contribute $10 to help make up for the $14,000 cut overall from the arts. Since there are approximately 1,400 students involved in the arts department, their contribution should help to cover most of the money lost from the cut.

Throughout all of these new adjustments, the drama department is confident that it can survive the budget cuts. Ms. Teasdale and the rest of the drama crew carry on as best as they can, although being the only faculty advisor to both improv and drama can be "like coaching two sports at one time." However, she asserts that "Ms. Kelley respects what we do: she and Mr. Pitts work extremely hard to try to get funding for us." Similarly, Dave Toro remarks with a confident smile, "we are able to work around it [budget cuts]... we are just as willing to put on a good production!"

n the Arts

The Beat Goes On...

By Olivia Paquette, III
Staff Writer

The Boston Latin School Music program has already seen some effects of recent budget cuts, but as Mr. Pitts, head of the Arts department, says, "We're not in dire straits." Thankfully, no music teachers were cut, but the budget for supplies and other necessities is tight. The amount of money spent on transportation for traveling music groups will not change, says Mr. Pitts, so paying for supplies will be more difficult. New instruments will not be bought this year. Most of the older instruments in use, including some from the 70's and 80's and even one horn from the 40's, are in good shape. However, some necessary upgrades and replacements might not be possible on account of the tight budget. Mr. Pitts explains that this year, band students may have to help pay for their own instrument repairs and reeds, along with other supplies. In addition, it will be harder for the school to provide scholarships to students for private music lessons.

Band director Mr. Harper says that the budget cuts force him to prioritize regarding the "quality of services" he can provide for different groups. "I have less money to cover the number of groups [I teach]," he says. Because of this, he must make decisions as to "who will get what music" to play. Supplies such as sheet music and instruments are also a problem. "Hopefully the situation will change," he says. In the meantime, choral director Mr. Simmons agrees that the tight budget makes "providing great services for my students" more difficult.



For now, there are ways to adapt to the tighter budget. For example, says Mr. Pitts, instead of buying new sheet music, teachers may have to reuse "music from years ago," which he does not consider a big problem. However, Mr. Pitts worries that the end of this school year will be especially difficult for the Music program, and he hopes not to run out of money for needs like transportation by May or June. He says that the department may eventually have to look into the Boston Public Schools' resources. Fundraising is also an option, although Mr. Pitts feels that money from fundraising should be used for special occasions like trips, not for essential department needs. He also hopes to gain more "parental support" and help from the Friends of the Arts committee at BLS.

Is Finger-Painting Next?

By Rob Winikates, I
Staff Writer

Ever been in one of the art studios in the new wing? If you have, you know that in the past each room has been a center of creativity and expression, a place where kids could go to be inspired and produce those inspirations. Luckily, such places are still available to Boston Latin School students. However, they now exist on a much more limited scale. All the students in the seventh grade took art twice per rotation last year, while this year it is only available once a rotation. Students in the eighth grade took art three times a rotation last year, and now only some take art twice. Luckily, there are still two sections of Art AP, but the Arts department did lose the former Art AP teacher, Ms. Jackson. This loss has left the rest of the classes to Mr. Byron and Mr. Harris, who now have heavier course loads than they did last year, leaving them with less time to prepare for their next classes. Thus the amount of work that the students are able to do in each of their now precious few art classes is reduced.



As one art student, who wishes to remain anonymous, remarks, "Losing Ms. Jackson has been a huge blow to the visual arts department; her vitality, her first-period breakfasts, and her overall enthusiasm to be there with her students will be sorely missed." Many people who weren't even in A.P. Art recall having spoken to the aforesaid Ms. Jackson in the hallways about things as trivial as fashion, and as important as the current political situation.

In addition, the visual arts department lost around $15,000 in funding for art supplies. This, in conjunction with losing Andrew Warren, the alumni-supported photography instructor, greatly increases the costs for the seniors in Art AP, who need to make slides of all of their work to send off to colleges. Not only this, but existing organizations in the school, such as the Photography Club, have been greatly hurt by his departure.

While some slides were purchased last year to help stem the cutbacks, there was no way to purchase enough supplies to last the entire year. Therefore, despite the best efforts of many, the future of our arts program seems to be, at best, shaky and uncertain. As one observer notes, "Without visual arts, this school would just be an ugly building that teaches dead languages."

Spotlight
Caitlin Gianniny



BY NAFKOTE TAMIRAT,

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

"So, here's the thing, I think that if I apply early action and early decision, it would be the best plan, right? You know what I-"
"Nafkote?"
"Yeah?"
"I don't give a damn."
"What?"
"I don't care."

Caitlin Gianniny isn't one for tact. Or non-offensive language, double entendres (except the sexual type) and polite non-statements. She has strong opinions and isn't afraid to share them. But what sets her apart from every other loudmouth political aficionado in our school is how she uses her artistic talent to express herself and the views of the world around her.

Anyone who meets Caitlin can tell two things: she likes to draw and dance. She's been dancing practically her whole life. She draws, paints, sculpts, makes beautiful jewelry, and on the side, does silk-screen. It's like Picasso, Renault, Leonardo, and Michelangelo had an orgy and produced her: a five-foot-something redhead with odd glasses and an eccentric desire to stretch ear holes.

Coming to BLS was a difficult transition, but the ever-intrepid Caitlin adjusted, and by tenth grade we had become friends. We began talking during "T.V.," the Guild play of 2002. She made costumes and I tried to act. She was eager to become friends, and has never been one of those tiresome people that you have to analyze and drag out of their shell. Her openness drew me to her.

Besides her work on costumes (and on occasion, the set) for the Drama Club, Caitlin is also in the challenging Art AP class. As a testimony to her concern for history and its consequences, one of Caitlin's recent pieces was dedicated to the atrocities committed in the Rwandan genocide.

It's difficult to write an article about Caitlin, because she cannot be summed up in 600 words. I could write about her artwork, her footwork, her acrylic-ball balancing abilities (don't ask), but that's not enough. Caitlin is an artist, not because she does things that are considered artistic, but because her very soul is that of an artist. She comments on architecture while walking in the middle of traffic, will bore you to death with descriptions of people you've never met, has been known to do crazy dances to *The Matrix*, yes, but, in the end, that is not what defines a person.

It's whether they're willing to talk with you all night, holding you in their lap in a crowded bus, while "*West Side Story*" blares through the speakers.

It's whether what they do makes you believe in the power of art and whether their passion can become your own. It's if they make you obsessed with eighties-like techno bands.
"Caitlin?"
"Shut up."
"Okay."
Ah, the moments of truth.

A & E

Success Projected for *Laramie*

By Zachary Trayes-Gibson, I
Assistant A&E Editor

I headed over to the delectable new arts wing to aid a friend in his search for gorgeous thespian women (who, I am told are also quite proficient in the dramatic arts). However, I found that the majority of them are far too involved in their new theater production to have time for the pathetic advances of would-be fans.

It turns out that the inhabitants of the arts wing are already two weeks into production of "*The Laramie Project*," a play that focuses on the murder of Matthew Shepard and the myriad effects it has on the small town in which he lived.

For those who may have forgotten, Matthew Shepard was the young University of Wyoming student who was kidnapped from a bar by two young men and found 18 hours later lashed to a farm fence on the side of the road. He was beaten, burned, and pistol-whipped within an inch of his life and then left for dead simply because he was gay. He died in a coma five days later. A wave of outrage swept the nation soon after, sparking a plethora of vigils and other demonstrations of solidarity, as well as a renewed focus on the perpetration of hate crimes.

The play, however, focuses not on the circumstances of Shepard's murder and the subsequent trials, but on his hometown of Laramie and the effect these events have had on its entire population. It is not so much a dogmatic retelling of the crime as it is an examination of varying reactions and, perhaps, the true nature of individuals.

Having found the search for my friend's bride-to-be fruitless, I managed to grab hold of *Laramie* director, Nafkote Tamirat (I), after a rehearsal and got her to discuss the upcoming play.

How would you classify this play - comedy, musical, drama, performance art?

Well, it's definitely not a comedy, despite some humorous moments. It's pretty much a straight up drama, although not in the classical sense.

How so?

It doesn't have much in the way of a plot, in terms of a beginning and an end of the action. The play was written by a theater company who stayed in the town of Laramie for a year conducting and collecting interviews of the residents. The play itself is essentially a compilation of the best of these interviews and is performed as a series of monologues strung together by portions of narration.

So it's definitely not a musical?

I'm afraid the closest it comes is a scene in which a few of the characters sing *Amazing Grace*.

I suppose that means no lavish dance numbers with large scale choreography.

You would be more than correct.

How did you go about casting this play?

We had auditions.

Could you explain the audition process for the students who are interested in participating in theater, but don't know where to start?



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

Sure. Prospective actors bring in a short monologue and perform it in a way that they feel fits with the piece. We ask them to give reasons for performing it the way they did. We then give them a piece from the script for which we think they would be well-suited and make notes on their performances. The assistant director and I pick just about anyone who seems to show some promise and then look them over seriously at callbacks. We then have each one perform a piece from the play again. The actors have to play multiple roles in this production, so we tried to find kids with good range. The next day the cast list is posted near the black box theater.

What advice would you give to those who didn't get a part this time?

Keep on auditioning. Better yet, do tech. I did tech for two straight years before I got my first part sophomore year. It shows the people who otherwise wouldn't know you that you're responsible and useful, thus boosting your chances of getting cast.

When will we be able to see "The Laramie Project?"

We will do four performances from November 22 through 24 in the Black Box Theater. Show up, even if seeing a play isn't your idea of a fun night out. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Is that a gurantee?

Of course.

Adventures in Little Old Lady Land

By James Barned-Smith, III
Staff Writer

After being underwhelmed by "*Cats*", and surviving "*Chicago,*" the tedious bore that was last year's "Best Picture," I expected the latest popular musical, Mel Brooks's Broadway smash "*The Producers*," to be a long, dull production full of comparatively bad music and featuring little or no real acting.

I was partially right: it was full of music. On all other counts, I was blown away: the acting, ranging from a near-perfect performance by David Edwards to the outstanding characterizations of Andy Taylor, was excellent, as the play surveyed a wide variety of emotions. Joy, tragedy, amazement: all were there in this fine piece of musical theater.

"*The Producers*" is the story of the down-on-his-luck Broadway producer Max Bialystock (David Edwards) and his accountant Leopold Bloom (Andy Taylor), who, through use of creative mathematics, discover that a Broadway producer can make more money on a flop than on a hit. From that moment on, the two misfits engage themselves in a quest to stage the worst musical ever written, finding it in the writing of ex-Reich soldier Franz Liebkind (Bill Nolte) and his play, "*Springtime for Hitler*".

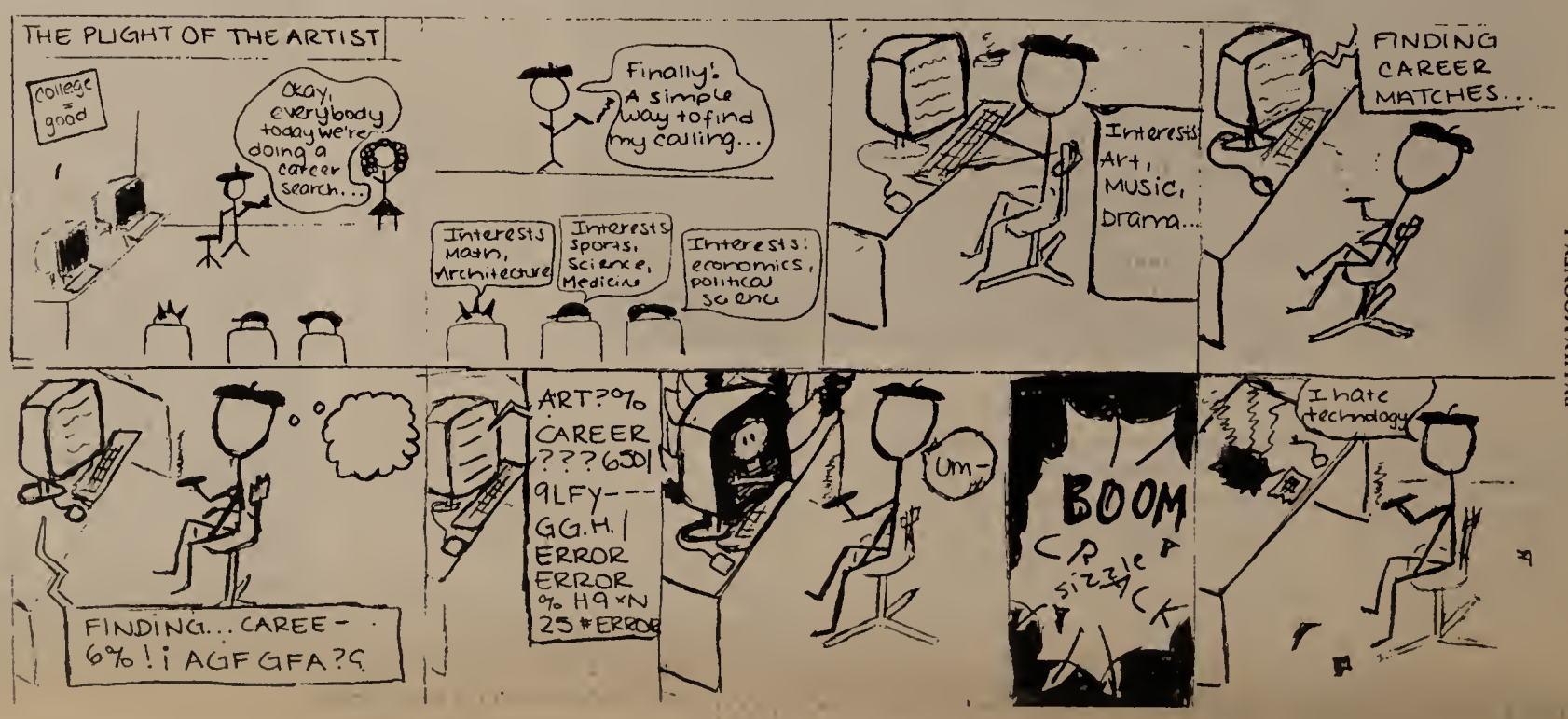
Following that, the two go on a talent search that leads them to gay director Roger de Bris (Lee Roy Reams) and his team of equally gay theatrical "experts": Carmen Ghia (Rich Affannato), Bryan (Scott Davidson), Kevin (David Edwards), and Shirley (Chris Holly). They also discover Ulla (Ida Leigh Curtis), the ravishing Swiss secretary and actress who delivers some of the most memorable lines in the play (her use of the Swiss accent on her receptionist line, "Bialystock and Bloom," was enough to send most of the audience into fits of hysterical laughter). Max Bialystock then goes to get money from his lusty old-lady backers (identified in the program by such memorable titles as 'Lick-me Bite-me' and 'Feel-me Touch-me'). Faster than you can say, "That's our Hitler!" "*Springtime for Hitler: A Gay Romp with Eva and Adolf in Berchtesgaden*" opens on Broadway and immediately becomes the biggest hit in recorded history, opening up a sea of trouble for Max and Leo.

Speaking as one who does not particularly enjoy music, I thought the music in *The Producers* was both very well done and, when the situation called for it, highly amusing. Although the opening song, appropriately titled "Opening Night," grew boring rather quickly, both "We Can Do It" and Bloom's "I Wanna be a Producer" were highly enjoyable pieces that helped the plot move along. Moreover, although both "Keep it Gay" and "Along Came Bialy" (Max's adventures in Little Old Lady Land) deeply disturbed me, neither was sufficient to mar my enjoyment of the production as a whole.

Despite the enjoyability of the story, however, the highlight of the play, when the audience sees the final product of "*Springtime for Hitler*", was a refreshing break, amounting to a brief moment in which we could concentrate on enjoying the music and the staging without having to worry about interpreting events. It also served as an easy separating point for the events (and, in some ways, the characters) of the play: before Springtime for Hitler we see a rejuvenated Max Bialystock and two men trying, in the face of all trial and tribulation, to make a flop: afterwards, we see their reactions to the disaster of their hit (hilariously expressed in Bialystock's song "Where Did We Go Right?") and the events that follow the discovery of their fraud.

Of course, as with any play, there were flaws. For one, I found the entire episode with Max in "*Little Old Lady Land*" thoroughly disgusting: though it was also somewhat amusing, Brooks would have been better served by having Bialystock discuss the events with Bloom rather than actually showing the audience what happened. Also, Ulla's song "If You Got It, Flaunt It" seemed too over the top even for the show, as well as being difficult to understand due to her strong Swedish accent. Finally, the logic of the end of the play was somewhat skewed, and while I realize that this makes no real difference on the ultimate effect, it does something to detract from the overall experience.

On the whole, "*The Producers*" was an extremely enjoyable work of theater, despite some very minor problems. If you are willing to sit through a three-hour play at the Colonial Theater, I recommend that you see it before it leaves Boston.



BY LILY MOONEY, I

Fall 2003 Schedules

GIRLS SWIMMING
Friday 10/10 @Dedham 4:00
Tuesday 10/14 Lexington 4:00
Friday 10/17 Belmont 4:00
Tuesday 10/21 @Newton North 4:00
Thursday 10/23 Duxbury 4:00
Tuesday 10/28 NQ/Quincy 3:30
Thursday 10/30 Acton-Boxborough 4:00

CROSS COUNTRY
Wednesday 10/8 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00
Wednesday 10/15 Bedford 4:00

BOYS SOCCER
Wednesday 10/8 Concord Carlisle 4:00
Friday 10/10 @ Westford Academy 4:00
Wednesday 10/15 Weston 4:00
Friday 10/17 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Monday 10/20 Bedford 4:00
Wednesday 10/22 Newton South 4:00

GIRLS SOCCER
Wednesday 10/8 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00
Friday 10/10 Westford Academy 4:00
Tuesday 10/14 Latin Academy 3:30
Wednesday 10/15 @ Weston 4:00
Friday 10/17 Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Monday 10/20 @ Bedford 4:00
Wednesday 10/22 Newton South 4:00
Thursday 10/23 @ Ursuline 4:00

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday 10/7 Cambridge 4:00
Wednesday 10/8 @ Bedford 4:00
Friday 10/10 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Tuesday 10/14 Needham 4:00
Wednesday 10/15 Concord Carlisle 4:00
Wednesday 10/22 Acton Boxborough 4:00
Friday 10/24 Newton South 4:00

GOLF 2003
Tuesday 10/7 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00
Thursday 10/9 Newton South/Weston 2:30
Tuesday 10/14 @ Westford 4:00
Wednesday 10/15 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00

FRESHMAN FOOTBALL
Thursday 10/9 @ Newton South 4:00
Thursday 10/16 @ Westford Academy 4:00
Thursday 10/23 @ Acton Boxborough 4:00
Thursday 10/30 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Thursday 11/6 @ Catholic Memorial 4:00
Thursday 11/13 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL
Monday 10/13 @ Newton South 11:00
Monday 10/20 @ Westford Academy 4:00
Monday 10/27 @ Acton Boxborough 3:30
Monday 11/3 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Monday 11/10 @ Catholic Memorial 11:00
Monday 11/17 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00

VARSITY FOOTBALL
Saturday 10/11 Newton South 1:30
Friday 10/17 @ Westford Academy 7:00
Saturday 10/25 Acton Boxborough 1:30
Friday 10/31 @ Lincoln Sudbury 7:00
Friday 11/7 @ Catholic Memorial 7:00
Saturday 11/15 Concord Carlisle 1:30
Thursday 11/27 @ Boston English 10:00

Wolfpack Standings

Girls' Volleyball: **7-3**
Girls' Swimming: **6-3**
Boys' Soccer: **0-11**
Girls' Soccer: **0-10-1**
Girls' Cross-Country: **1-4**
Boys' Cross-Country: **0-5**
Football: **3-0**
Golf: **0-6**



BY KASSIE SKIPPER, I

Swimming Makes a Serious Splash

By St. John Barned-Smith, I
Assistant Sports Editor

There are years when Boston Latin School sports are good and years where they are...not. I am happy to report that this is definitely a good year for girls' swimming. Though there have been no changes in the pool, the coaching, or the practices, something unusual has surfaced with this team. They have attitude, they are out on a mission and they are fierce. Miscommunication and squabbles that detracted from the team's success in past years have dissolved, due in a large part to the leadership of Kassie Skipper (I) and Sharon Silverman (I), both of whom swim on USA teams and who use their finely-honed skills to enhance the team's performance and quality. Lani Skipper (III), Brittany Callahan (IV) and Elizabeth Balaconis (IV) all contribute and are strong prospects for the years to come.

The caliber of the team is very high this year. The younger swimmers show great talent and potential, while the older swimmers look stronger than ever, displaying leadership and encouraging their teammates. Coach Connolly, longtime trainer of the pack, has stated that it is probably the strongest team he has coached for Boston Latin in the last five years. Katherine Pittore (I) echoes the optimistic spirit of the team, saying she is "confident about the team's continued success during the rest of the season." She also states that sectionals will be an event to look forward to, as "many members of the team have already qualified for sectionals, and one of the officials believe the team has one of the fastest relays in the state."

Part of this depth and skill comes from the practices that the girls endure every day. Since water is 773 times denser than air, two to three miles in liquid is very draining: to cut speed by only 10 percent one has to do 30 percent more work. This is not a sport where it is possible to rest easily either: one's entire body is working to force oneself through the water, and unlike dry sports, breathing is a luxury that is not easily afforded.

Despite all these rigors, the Wolfpack swimmers are a committed bunch. The Murphy school, the closest they usually go for practices or meets, is 45 minutes away by bus. In fact, some of their meets are an hour and a half away, or don't even start until 7 p.m., which means a late shower and a cranky morning.

Of the 45 regulars on the team, small compared to last year's 60 members, everyone competes at some point during the year. Though no one is guaranteed a spot on the blocks at every meet, the pack is always expected to show up and cheer on their teammates.

The most amazing trait of this team is their stubbornness: they are completely unwilling to give up. In the showdown against Brookline, the girls' big-time rival, the girls managed to win by two points, 84-82. Their record is a respectable 6-3.

Girls' Wolfpack is a fierce team this year, and they deserve your support. Don't let them down.



BY ROB WINIKATES, I

Game of the Month: North Quincy

By Caroline Sullivan, II
Staff Writer

On September 13, the Boston Latin School football team, led by coach John McDonough, opened up its season against North Quincy. With a new offense, new uniforms, and a new attitude, the boys were ready to win.

The game began well for the Wolfpack, with excellent defense and offense. After several unsuccessful drives for both North Quincy and Boston Latin, Bob Grueter (I) sacked North Quincy's quarterback, causing a fumble and recovering it deep in North Quincy's zone. Rashaad Bryant (II) ran in 12 yards to the end zone, scoring Latin's first touchdown. Kicker Nate Allukian (II) scored the extra point.

Things only got better for the Wolfpack. Latin's defense, led by Grueter and Marvin Cine (I), held the Red Raiders to only 80 yards in the first half. They methodically stopped North Quincy's offense, allowing no points until the fourth quarter. Latin's offense was based around a running game, which was quite successful. At least six different running backs carried the ball. Halfway through the second quarter Ryan Park (II) ran three yards for Latin's second touchdown. Allukian again demonstrated his superior kicking ability, scoring more extra points.

Quarterback Mike Mitchell (II) showed that Latin's passing game is just as effective. Park's touchdown ended an 84-yard drive by the Wolfpack that included a 47-yard pass to Cine. The half ended with the outstanding offensive linemen James McDonough (I) and Bronson Conlin (I) blocking for Rory Foley (III), who scored the third touchdown. A failed two-point conversion made the score 20-0 in favor of Boston Latin.

During the third quarter the Red Raiders finally got a break in the form of an interception. However, Jo Nathan Charles (I) and the rest of the defensive line quickly halted North Quincy's drive. The rest of the quarter was slow, with no points scored on either side, and a penalty-ridden finish for the Wolfpack.

North Quincy tried to rally in the fourth quarter. After Park scored his second touchdown and Allukian added the extra point, North Quincy scored their first touchdown of the game. They then successfully completed the two-point conversion, and appeared to pick up steam.

In an effort to score more points, the Red Raiders attempted an on-sides kick. However, Latin's talented special teams unit recovered the kick, and North Quincy's hopes were dashed. An unsuccessful drive landed the ball back in North Quincy's possession. Fortunately, Larry Keegan (I) made a crucial interception that ended the game.

The Wolfpack hopes to keep this winning streak alive. With a tough schedule this season, the team will need to maintain this level of play to show the DCL what they

Spotlight:
Chris Saunders



By St. John Barned-Smith, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Christopher Saunders has been a friend, an ear, and a fellow athlete since the fourth grade. We have faced a whole lot of stuff together, including the evil teachers at Jackson; the rough transition into Boston Latin School; the sixie bags; the good, the bad, and the ugly teachers; the vast quantities of homework; and girls. In that time, one constant that has been in his life has been football. He began in the eighth grade, and has played every year since. When interviewing him, he reminded me of the time he asked a captain where the varsity tryouts were - he was in seventh grade, and not intimidated at all about the idea of playing varsity football. That's the type of guy Saunders is- enormously confident, scared of no one. He is also extremely friendly, boisterous, perceptive, and a little crazy.

The captain didn't let him try out that year, even for freshmen football, but he came back the next year and won a spot on the squad. Later, in tenth grade, he went straight to the varsity squad, where he played as Yemi's backup. Many of you may have seen Yemi Owelowa in the halls (he has since graduated); Chris would have to have *big* shoes to fill if he were going to steal that spot. Was Saunders intimidated? No: he even *told* Yemi that he would steal his spot. Granted, he never did, but it paints a vivid picture of his personality. Now that he is out from behind Yemi's shadow, he has done very well, running for 56 yards in seven carries in one game alone.

Chris is also a little eccentric. He is the only person I have ever heard who calls the game of football "really peaceful," which helps him to confront his problems — that out on the field, everything slows down and feels like poetry. Naturally, it's hard to believe him when he comes to school limping the next day, but he is insane enough to actually believe what he says.

When inteviewed, he kept wandering away from himself and back to how excited he was about the team, and the season — but very rarely about himself. He was positively gleeful over the team's strongest start in three years, and kept talking about the team's huge determination and energy. He also said that the team keeps winning as the underdog because of its heart, for though its opponents might have more power, they still have less determination. It is because of captains and athletes like Saunders that BLS Wolfpack is winning; They are motivating the other players and working to their fullest potential every day.

Saunders is very driven and very motivated — at times it's almost frightening. He is *always* in the weight room or on the field, improving his game or studying the playbook. After the Bedford game, I found him in school working out in the weight room, even though he looked exhausted. He is an incredibly dedicated person: whenever I talk to him, many times it feels as if every third word coming out of his mouth is "football" or "the game".

He was also adamant about another point- and he will probably beat me if I don't put it in the article — "If there is one thing that you must do, it is to give a shout out to all my teammates."

BLS Sports
Kicking into Action

By Patricia Hao, II
Staff Writer

I have always wanted to play soccer, but my only attempt at it this year resulted in a lacerated palm and a sprained ankle, on which I could not walk for two weeks. On a higher note however, the girls of the Boston Latin School girls' soccer team seem to have better luck and a lot more talent. The Girls' Varsity soccer team, consisting of a bevy of members ranging from freshmen to seniors, are feeling stronger and more like a team than ever. Although their current record of 0–10–1 looks daunting, Wolfpack soccer is committed to making this season the best that it can be. Practices and home games this year are held at Millennium Field, in West Roxbury. Although located farther than the former Daisy Field, the benefits (real grass!) are well worth the longer ride. Like most BLS sports, girls' soccer meets every day after school until about 5:45pm. Practices usually consist of drills in agility, heading, volleys, and a lot of running. While many might expect a high injury toll among these highly aggressive girls, minor injuries do not usually exceed a few bruises and grass burns: major injuries are seldom incurred.



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

As part of the Dual County League, a division where competition is high, there is no room for mistakes or holding back. The girls give 110 percent and the utmost commitment to improve their game. The girls in both the junior varsity and varsity squads actively plan new strategies and create their own practices. The junior varsity girls' strategy is to build and enforce their offensive line while still keeping a formidable defense. With this being the secret of this year's strategy, they hope to execute more effective plays and, ultimately, win more games.

Everyone on the team gets along and the squad is very unified. Regardless of age, each member of the team has earned her spot due to skill. Without having to worry about the drama and commotion that occurred last year, the current captains are emphasizing unity, teamwork, precision, and most importantly, fun. Of course, they also want to continue their notoriously aggressive style — to play as ardently as in past years.

Nadine Deery (I) sums up the dedication needed to excel in this sport: "With soccer, you must work just as hard as playing basketball or football. Being in shape is crucial, but it's different because there is no set play. No one ever has things planned out and you never know what's going to happen. All you can do is practice hard, support your teammates, and hope you don't trip on the ball."

Kerry's Kolumn: The DCL



BY JAMES ZHANG, I

By Kerry Sullivan, I
Sports Columnist

Almost twenty years ago Boston Latin School transferred from competition in the Boston City League to tournaments in the Dual County League. At the time the switch made sense: Latin had a winning football team and was trouncing the schools across the city in all areas of competition.

These days, if a normal, strictly academic Latin School student were to walk casually past the locker rooms after school, he or she would probably hear talk of another beating handed to a BLS team. Not many people understand the predicament of the current athletic department here at Boston Latin School. Most students glimpse through the Argo every few months, skimming through the sports section for signs of victory. After reading that the football team only managed to beat English again, or that the boys' soccer team went winless, these oh-so-active students use this ammunition to unfairly harass their friends who bust their butts out on the football or soccer field.

Why is it so difficult for Latin teams to win? There are many ways to blame the student-athletes, or the school, or its lack of facilities, but there exist even more reasons for the widespread defeat of Wolfpack squads. It's true that the football team doesn't have a real football field to practice on; it's true that the swim team has to waste valuable practice time traveling all the way to Dorchester. The softball team practices with cracked helmets.The crew team had to raise the money for their boats, due to a reduced athletics budget. But there's more to the situation than just budget cuts, travel hassles, and hours of studying to manage as well. BLS switched leagues to join a higher level of competition; the level of competition it joined, however, has continued to increase without the Latin School.

Why is it so difficult for Latin teams to win?

Anyone who has ever traveled to an away game should have some sense of the situation. The seven other schools in the Dual County League are surrounded by fields of dreams — literally. While Boston Latin's scholar-athletes sit on the MBTA, taking the bus to Millenium Field, Franklin Park, the Murphy Pool, the Charles River, and, most recently, to Charlestown for the sailing team, other DCL squads are perfecting their goal-tending, play-action fakes, tee shots, 100 meter butterfly times, tacks and jibes, and triple jump techniques.

The lack of facilities is not the Wolfpack's only disadvantage. The athletes of Boston Latin are a motley crew of students who do not meet each other until the first day of practice, let alone compete together before coming to the school. Soccer teams in the rest of the Dual County League grow up playing soccer together, whereas Boston Latin's soccer teams are lucky to have more than a handful of players who have played with each other for a number of years.

Several of the more intimidating teams in our league have another added advantage: they combine the populations of two towns to form one large school. This practice is evident in their names: Concord-Carlisle, Acton-Boxboro, and Lincoln-Sudbury. This increases the student athlete ratio and allows each team from the respective schools to create a deeper and larger talent pool.

Just how is the talent broken down in the DCL? Are there schools to avoid like the plague because they thrash us so badly? Are there teams that we can actually beat? The early football outlook appearing in the Boston Globe each September is a good reminder of how great the DCL is at football. Acton-Boxboro is a constant presence in the top five football teams. Lincoln-Sudbury, Concord-Carlisle, and Westford Academy also pose a threat in football, as well as several other sports. Newton South is a perennial challenge on the track and the volleyball court. Wayland has recently blossomed into a surprisingly competitive school in sports such as softball and football. Weston High School is one of the smallest schools in the DCL, and while it doesn't appear to be a powerhouse on the surface, it's also not an easy school to beat.

Is there any solution to the wave of defeat which has swept over BLS athletics recently? Well, dear readers, there is hope yet. We still have hockey.

Football Bombs Them All

By Jin Bin Liu, II
Staff Writer

It's time to bust out the pom-poms: football season is here again. The Wolfpack runs again and is looking forward to "beasting" in the Dual County League. Despite a 3-8 record last year and a loss of a handful of seniors, Head Coach John McDonough and his captains are very enthusiastic about this year's team.

A coach at Boston Latin for 22 years, Coach McDonough says that there is always something to like about each team. And there is plenty to like about this year's squad. "The players have great enthusiasm and are really into it. They have a great attitude and respond well to the coaching. We're looking forward to getting better every week."

The irregular visitor to the locker room will be struck not only by the noise and stench, but also by the good cheer and zeal of the team. One of the purple-clad players called out: "Larry Keagan here, with the interception. [I'm] the playmaker."

The captains are equally optimistic about this year's prospects. Two of them commented on the positive attitude of the team. "There's more heart than usual in this team. It's going to be good, " said Marvin Ciné (I), a wide receiver and linebacker. Added Jimmy McDonough (I), an offensive guard and defensive tackle: "It's looking good. The offense is there and the team camaraderie is even better than last year's".

The third captain, Bob Grueter (I) a tight end and defensive end, and Mike Mitchell (II), the starting quarterback, both expressed their confidence in the new offense. The Wolfpack has good reason to hope for a great season. The team trains hard for two to three hours everyday after school until 5 or 5:30 p.m. The practice is broken up into many different parts. The team splits first into its offensive and defensive units. Then the defensive part of the team is divided into defensive linemen and defensive backs. The offense is divided into offensive linemen, offensive backs and wide receivers. The specialized subunits practice together in their respective groups, then come together to practice as a team. The freshmen all practice together as a separate unit. The curious fan has only to stop by at Clemente Field any day after school to witness the Wolfpack at work.

With season-opening victories against North Quincy, 28-7, at Matignon, 33-6, and at Bedford, 48-32, the Wolfpack is looking forward to an outstanding season this year. Quarterback Mike Mitchell says it best: "There are no stars on this team, but everyone plays hard and plays together."

Go *BLS*!

Serving Up a Victory

By Courtney Ferguson, II
Contributing Writer

After two consecutive Dual County League victories, the girls' volleyball team is again ready to reclaim its title. However, this year may prove to be a more difficult one because of some obstacles that need to be overcome. These girls are eager to face any challenges, even ones that can be both long and complicated. With hard work, determination, a respectable record thus far and, of course, practice, they may be able to go the distance yet again.

This year, the girls have some experience to gain and confidence to build. Due to the the departure of many vital seniors, the team is relatively new and inexperienced. Both the varsity and junior varsity teams consist of quite a few new members. The team is lacking in neither talent nor dedication, but there is a need to strengthen their ability to work together. As Aubrie Pagano (I) said "they basically had to start from scratch this year," due in a large part to the loss of team members. This process is long and difficult. Under the direction of Coach Kai and captains Anna George (I) and Karen Chui (I), efforts have been focused on this and technique. Practice is usually fun but can also be lengthy. It starts immediately after junior varsity practice at 3:30 p.m. and usually concludes at around 6 p.m. Coach Kai likes to keep the girls as long as possible so that they can get as much practice as deemed necessary.

Even though this is a relatively new team, they are off to a good start; their efforts and skill are evident from their games. So far this season, the girls have been victorious in four out of their seven games. Their first two victories, the one against Westford Academy and the other against Bedford, came easily. The next two games, however, proved to be quite a struggle. After losing to Cambridge, they again suffered an extremely horrible and difficult loss at home to the Lincoln-Sudbury team. The girls struggled to continue volleys and had some unsuccessful attempts at spiking. Still, the team did not give up even when they were trailing Lincoln-Sudbury greatly, by nearly ten points. The team redeemed itself and ended its two-game losing streak by defeating Concord-Carlisle, a very talented and competitive squad, even without the home court advantage.



The girls' volleyball team would like to bring home the DCL championship again for the third time. This goal is within reach: the girls are willing to accept the challenge and are certainly capable of doing so. Their outstanding talent and commitment to strengthening their team will lead them to numerous wins and, with luck, another championship.

Crossing the Finish Line

By Luke Liu, II,
Contributing Writer

How fit are you? Can you run three miles? Five miles? Seven miles? Could you do that five times a week, every day after school? Probably not. This is what the Boston Latin School cross-country team does every day after school. Right after a grueling day of hard work at BLS, they head straight outside, ready to participate in an exhausting practice.

This year, the boys' team is more physically in shape and more prepared than in previous years. The Boys team, led by Captain Jonathan Yee (I), is full of experienced veterans. These varsity runners encourage their younger teammates, members such as Sam Strassman (V) and Jin Bin Liu (II), to train hard and lead the junior varsity team to a win.

The girls' team is primed to compete, with notable members including varsity captain Kerry Sullivan (I), Liz Tricco (I), and Brittany Canniff (II). The girls' half of the team is superior in numbers, if not talent, to the boys section. Young varsity runners Cecelia Wong (III) and Caroline O'Loughlin (IV) have shocked many of their Dual County League opponents with their vast improvements since last season. Elizabeth Good (II) and Cassie Kull (III) lead the junior varsity squad, a team brimming with future prospects. Overall, both the boys' and the girls' teams are more experienced, and they will certainly be more competitive both this year and in future years. But they may not be competitive enough.

With both teams down in an early hole with an 0-3 start, some of the team members predict a disappointing record. States Fahd Abdus-Sabur (I): "Winning would necessitate a vast increase in drive and more rigorous training. I think that the team is a lot better than last year's in every regard, but the record will be the same regardless." However, the team has had to open its season against several teams who are competitive at the state level every year.

Although this year's expectations for the team may not be so high, all of the members of the Cross Country team agree on one thing; they will all improve a great deal individually over the season. With the team's dedication, its members should certainly achieve their own personal goals. By pushing themselves to run those six or seven miles a day, their aspirations should be achieved by the end of the season. Team Captain Kerry Sullivan sums up the mindset of the team very well. "Realistically, our league is very talented, but our runners have a lot of potential, and I think we can look forward to a lot of individual successes."

Spotlight: Sharon Silverman



BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

Sharon Silverman is one of the most accomplished athletes from the class of 2004. She has been a fixture on the Boston Latin School swim team since she entered in the 9th grade. Lucky for Latin, Sharon opted to leave Winsor and enroll as a B-sie. She is the captain of this year's very strong team that has upset powerhouses such as Brookline and Sandwich. Few Latin school students can fathom the intensity and drive Sharon brings to the sport.

Sharon has been swimming since she was three years old. When she was five she joined her first swim team — and never looked back. Since then she has grown into a very powerful swimmer who specializes in short distances. It is obvious from watching Sharon swim that she spends hours in the pool working on her technique and strength. She has an unparalleled sense of dedication to her sport, spending hours practicing her dive off the blocks to gain the edge on her opponents. The edge is exactly what Sharon has: she leaves the competition in her wake. Specializing in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard fly, Sharon is also the anchor of an incredible 200-yard freestyle relay team that includes Rosie Malsberger (II) and the Skipper sisters, Kassie (I) and Lani (III).

This year Sharon was named co-captain, of the girls' swim team. She leads by example, and although she is not the most vocal person, her dedication, hard work, and tremendous ability help motivate her teammates. Sharon was named team MVP in both the 10th and 11th grades. She has qualified for the state tournament in all three of her years with the team for the 50 yard freestyle and the relay team. This year Sharon is on pace to qualify again. Sharon took first in both of her solo events against Natick and helped her relay team take first in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Sharon is also co-captain of the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys' and Girls' Club swim team. As a member for five years, she has traveled with the team to Florida annually where they make a strong showing at the National Boys' and Girls' Clubs meet. The team swims during the winter and spring making Sharon an all-season swimmer.

Not only is Silverman a gifted athlete, but she is also a strong student who gives back to her community. A member of the National Honor Society, Sharon takes a full course load of AP and honors classes, and maintains a high GPA. She is a science enthusiast who would one day like to be an astronaut. Sharon is also a wonderfully loyal friend, who never hesitates to give sound advice or simply listen. Sharon's loyalty also extends to her family. Both of her younger sisters, Sarah a freshman at BLS, and Leah a sixth grader at the Murphy School in Dorchester, see Sharon as an example of what hard work both in the pool and in the classroom can bring.

Sharon plans to swim in Division III in college, where she will undoubtedly bring her drive, ambition, and good attitude to any program. But above all else, Sharon's future is bright because of her intelligence, honesty, and wide-ranging talent.

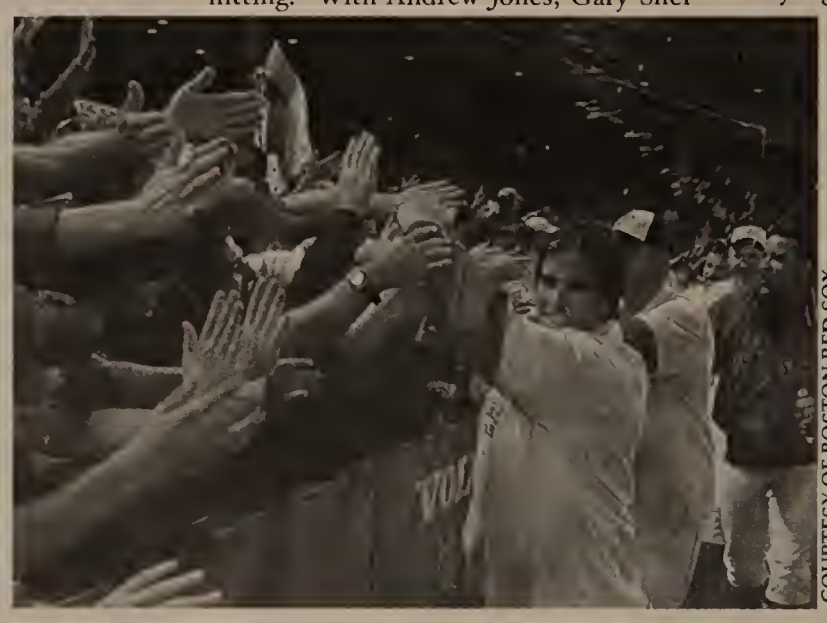
Pro Sports

MLB: All Good Things...

By Edward Chiu, II
Assistant A&E Editor

As the playoffs swing into action, let's take a look at the highlights of the 2003 season.

When spring training rolled into Arizona and Florida, only a handful of teams had playoff aspirations — most notably the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks. Who would have thought that by the first of September, 17 teams would still be in contention? But that's why they play the game.



COURTESY OF BOSTON RED SOX

The major league baseball season was defined by a few feel-good stories throughout the league. Here are but a few:

The -Montreal Expos played more road games than any other team, finishing the season with a record of 83-79, their first back-to-back winning season since the1993-1994 seasons. Bud Selig needs to find a home for them. There are only apathetic fans up in Montreal: it's time to end their misery.

Since the inception of the wild card in 1995, there's never been such great drama for the spot. *Eight* teams for *one* wild card position? Montreal, Florida, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, St. Louis, Arizona and Los Angeles were all within 2.5 games of the wild card lead. This is why the wild card was made in the first place.

The Atlanta Braves won the National League East...again. This year it was not their pitching that dominated, but their hitting. With Andrew Jones, Gary Sheffield and the resurgent Javier Lopez leading the best offense in the NL, the bats carried a team with a pitching staff that had lost Kevin Millwood, Tom Glavine and the core of the best bullpen in 2002 to the best record in the NL. The off-season acquisition of Russ Ortiz for Damian Moss looks ingenious, with a 21-7 record and 3.81 ERA. Ortiz is a possible candidate for the National League Cy Young Award.

Red Sox Return to Postseason Play

On Opening Day, Red Sox Nation claimed the season was all but lost. At first, the bullpen by committee exploded in front of general manager Theo Epstein, but his excellent moves thereafter insured the talent needed to make a playoff run. First, he solidified the closer's role with the acquisition of Byung-Hyun Kim for Shea Hillenbrand, allowing for the emergence of David Ortiz and batting champion Bill Mueller, both worthy candidates for MVP status. Masking the failures of the bullpen was the best offense in the major league. The Red Sox led the major league in all hitting categories. As the trading deadline loomed, Epstein acquired Scott Williamson, Scott Sauerbeck and Jeff Suppan as low-level prospects and Freddy Sanchez (in separate deals). By July 31, a rush of optimism swept the Red Sox Nation. The Sox stuck it out through the dog days of summer and September to secure the American League wild card over Seattle. They returned to postseason play for the first time since 1999.

The Boston Red Sox have a trio of pitchers (Martinez, Lowe and Wakefield) clicking at the right time plus the best offense in the majors. They thrived during a grinding marathon of 162 games, finishing the season with a record of 95-67.

The playoffs this year will be another great one. Great young pitching. Good hitting. Great matchups.

Wait 'til Next Year



COURTESY OF BOSTON RED SOX

By Oscar Baez, I
Sports Editor

Call it delusion. Insanity. Whatever you like, but do not deny this: There is a certain quality to Red Sox fans, a devotion that makes them the most faithful in baseball. 84 years, 15 presidents, and two world wars have come and gone since the Red Sox last won the World Series. There is no logical reason for a person to have faith in such a franchise, one whose primary claim to fame is failure. What on earth could compel them, year in and year out, to fill those ancient stands?

Sox fans have seen rough days. The way fans respond to living in "Loserville," however, is what makes them stand out. These aficionados do not hesitate to defend and critique their team — *loudly*. This mistaken "whining" should stand as a testament to their emotional involvement. They do not simply jump on and off the bandwagon, choosing to follow a team because it is fashionable.

"Wait 'til next year," has come to embody the experience of being a baseball fan in Boston. Even the "classic" moments lie on the backdrop of some sort of letdown. Game six of the 1975 World Series, in which Carlton Fisk, now the retired number 27, hit his timeless walk-off home run, is a prime example. Fisk's zealous hand gestures, mimicked by the thousands of spectators, appeared to defy the laws of gravity. The ball was *fair*! Sadly, that moment of euphoria would not last. The next game, Cincinnati's Big Red Machine drove the city back into its proverbial state of defeat.

Despite all the setbacks, Sox fans have proved to be resilient. In 1986, they were given yet another glimmer of hope: this time, they were only one strike from the world championship. But then *it* happened. Bill Buckner, probably the dirtiest name in a Sox fan's vocabulary (other than "Yankees"), let a ball go under his legs, extending the series to another heartbreaking game seven.

Many have taken the situation into their own hands. In 2001, a fanatic (in every sense of the word) sought an Indian shaman in hopes of ending the "Curse of the Bambino." As instructed, the diehard fan climbed to the peak of Mt. Everest and placed a standard Red Sox cap there, then took out a Yankee cap and set it ablaze. This intense show of loyalty has yet to bring a championship, but the spirit shines bright in the eyes of fans each April.

The Boston Red Sox have treated their fans badly; they have hiked up ticket prices, refuse to build a new stadium, and are still depriving them of a World Series banner. Such treatment would drive any sane fan away for good. But Red Sox fans are *not* sane. They reside in a state of which others could only dream. They feel hope at times when others would merely despair. As vicious as it may be, this love affair grows more passionate by the day. They aren't called the Fenway Faithful for nothing.

Targeting September?

By Adam Fleischer, III
Contributin Writer

Hopes were high for the New England Patriots heading into the 2003 season.



COURTESY OF NE PATRIOTS

Coming off of a 9-7 season in which they missed the playoffs, but just two years removed from their Super Bowl glory, the Patriots made some off-season pickups that they hoped would lead them back to the playoffs in 2003.

The Patriots spent the off-season trying to add the missing components of a respectable team, focusing mostly on defense. The biggest move was the acquisition of linebacker Roscvelt Colvin, one of the best players on the free agent market. They also signed Rodney Harrison, the Pro Bowl safety, to help improve the previously strong secondary. The media and fans were excited knowing that the Patriots would have two all-pro starting safeties, but that scenario abruptly changed when the release of Lawyer Milloy was announced the week before the start of the season. Milloy was the team captain and a leader both on and off the field, and thus the release came as a surprise to everyone, even the players. Amid all the talk as to how the release would affect the team, the Patriots knew that they needed to stay focused heading into week one.

In the first game of the season the Patriots headed to Buffalo to face the Bills, their division rival and, ironically, the new team of Lawyer Milloy. Buffalo was coming off an 8-8 season, but with an explosive offense and a much-improved defense, the Patriots knew that they could not take the Bills lightly. Ex-Patriot and current Bills starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe and his offensive attack put up 24 points. The Bills defense shut out the team while Patriots quarterback Tom Brady had an abysmal game, throwing for no touchdowns, four interceptions, and just 123 yards. In week one, the Patriots didn't look like a team that could meet a .500 average for the season, let alone make it to the Super Bowl.

Week two was a totally different story for New England, which was as much in need for a good game as any team can be in the second week of the NFL season. The Patriots defense played a superb game against the Philadelphia Eagles, last year's runner up in the NFC. They held Eagles pro bowl quarterback Donavan McNabb to just 18 completions on 46 attempts. Brady also had a complete turnaround from the previous week, throwing for 255 yards and three scores on 30/44 passing. The 31-10 win over such a good team was a real confidence booster for the Patriots, who had now pulled even with a 1-1 record on the young season.

In week three the Patriots faced the 0-2 New York Jets, another AFC East opponent. A win in this game along with a loss by the Bills would pull the Patriots into a three-way tie for the lead in the division. New England played well in their home opener, topping the Jets 23-16 with 79 yards' rushing from Kevin Faulk and a strong day from the entire defense.

The Patriots made the trip down to Washington, D.C. in week four to face the Redskins, a team with one of the best starts to the season in the NFL. The game started off and looked to be a close one all the way through, as it was 3-3 after the first quarter. Late in the third the Redskins had jumped out to a 20-3 lead over the Patriots. Brady and the rest rallied and pulled within three points of the lead, having possession of the ball. New England then faced a fourth down situation but couldn't pull the game off, thus giving up the ball, the game, and dropping to .500.

The 2-2 start of the season has been acceptable for the Patriots and their hopeful playoff run, but there is still a full season ahead and plenty of time for improvement. Already with injuries to Rosevelt Colvin and other key players, combined with the eighth toughest schedule in the league, the Pats will need to continue playing hard and fighting for wins. This looks to be the start of another grinding year for the Patriots.

BLS Sports Hotline

Ever wanted to know what games are on for the Wolfpack but didn't know where to ask? Wonder no more! Boston Latin School has a service available to let you know when and where games will be held. Call the school at **(617) 635-8895 ext. 257 (BLS)** to get times and locations of events.

Boston Latin School
Argo

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They're not quite spoons, but they're not quite forks... they're SPORKS!! p. 11

The BLS Argo is now online! www.blsargo.org/

Ritzy Gala Caps Off Fundraising Initiative

By Ashlyn Garry, III & Elizabeth Finalyson, III
Staff Writers

On Saturday, October 25th the echoes of greatness that ring in the Boston Latin School hallways were transformed into the alumni that created them. The festivities began bright and early at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast donated by Au Bon Pain, under the auspices of Frank Guidara '64. Alumni, parents and students were led around the building throughout the morning to exhibit its recent renovations. However, the real highlight was the array of speakers.

At 9:00 a.m. two presentations began. "The Sporting Life" featured many renowned sports figures: Leila Graham-Willis '89 of the Philadelphia Phillies, Bob Caporale '58 of Game Plan LLC, former Boston Celtics Executive Vice President Rich Pond '77 and moderator Dan Rea of WBZ TV News all shared their experiences from their years in the sports world.

Also at that time, "World Affairs," a lecture delivered by Richard Clarke '68, began. Mr. Clarke is both a former ABC news correspondent and a former White House terrorism expert. During his powerful hour-long presentation he shared the White House's six rationales for the war in Iraq, and explained why, in his opinion, they were faulty. Finally, Mr. Clarke explained the physical, emotional, and economic costs of the war in Iraq.

"A Legacy in Art," a presentation by Ray Nasher '39, began at 10:15. Mr. Nasher shared his experiences as a world-famous art collector based out of Dallas, Texas. The presentation focused on the conception and construction of his brand-new museum (it opened on October 20th) that displays his remarkable and vast collection of sculpture. The lecture was accompanied by a slide show of pieces from and of his museum, the Nasher Sculpture Center itself, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano. Mr. Nasher can be considered one of the greats of the modern art world. Inspired in part by his wife, a great friend of respected artists such as Andy Warhol and Henry Moore, to begin collecting art, particularly sculpture, Mr. Nasher stands to be one of the most important figures in the western art world.



"Life in Boston," featuring the Massachusetts Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran '67, Pulitzer Prize-winning Steve Kurkjian '62, and Visitors' Bureau Pat Moscaritolo '62, covered many concerns about Boston as a city. The first question asked to the panel regarded their visions for Boston in the next few years. Improvements at Logan Airport, enrichment of the Boston's tougher neighborhoods, and making "quintessential" Boston "the American statement" were mentioned by Mr. Moscaritolo, Mr. Kurkjian, and Speaker Finneran. The idea of a new Fenway Park and the source of the financing were also discussed by the panel. Perhaps the hottest topic of the presentation was the upcoming Democratic Convention, and whether the preparations for it will drastically affect the lives of Bostonians. Speaker Finneran also spoke of the possibility of giving the convention attendees a tour of Boston Latin School. The event closed that evening with a black-tie affair attended by members of the Latin School educational and administrative staff, and of course, the alumni themselves. Not only were the events highly successful fund-raising opportunities, but they celebrated the "sumus primi" legacy that Boston Latin School alumni continue to create.

Democratic Forum at Faneuil Hall

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

In November of 2004, America will choose its leader for the next four years. This means that most of today's high school seniors, and not a few juniors, will have a hand in determining the future of the country.

This should not be a scary thought. And events like the Democratic forum on Tuesday, November 4th, are designed to ensure that it is not.

The debate was sponsored by Rock the Vote, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing more young voters into the election process. Three Boston Latin School students had the opportunity to cover the event as credentialed members of the press, complete with special laminated badges and spots in the "Spin Room." Held appropriately in Faneuil Hall, a place rich in both American history and American fast food, the forum featured eight of the nine Democratic candidates for the presidency. Among them were Howard Dean, a Democrat from Vermont, who claims that "The reason I knew I was the front runner is because I keep picking buckshot out of my rear end all the time," and Senator John Kerry, a figure of special interest to his fellow citizens of Massachusetts. Other participants included former Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Sen. John Edwards (D-NC), Rev. Al Sharpton, Gen. Wesley Clarke (ret'd), and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT). Absent was Dick Gephardt, reportedly "In Iowa, in a diner," where, host Anderson Cooper assured the audience, "I don't think he's going to have quite as much fun as we all are going to have here."



BY TRUDE RAIZEN, II

What was unique about this affair was that questions were posed to the candidates by members of Rock the Vote's targeted age 18-30 demographic. This resulted in an interesting array of discussion topics, ranging from earnest dialogue regarding soldiers' rights to pinning down the candidates' positions on the controversial Mac-PC issue. A video of the candidates reciting their stock phrases kicked off the discussion, preventing them from retreating into the comfort of their oft-repeated political mantras.

One of the first questions addressed to Kerry required him to put himself in the much-reviled shoes of Red Sox manager Grady Little and make an "executive decision" regarding a purely hypothetical pitcher. Despite one audience member's comment that "That's one way to get Kerry out of the race," he came through with flying colors, asserting his ability to take charge and his all-important loyalty to the home team: "Hell, I was throwing things at the set. He's out. Take him out." Dean, however, who has emerged at the head of most recent polls of the Democratic, became the subject of much respectfully adversarial debate when a student recalled him saying that he "wanted to be the candidate for guys with Confederate flags on their pickup trucks." Sharpton, Edwards and Moseley-Braun jumped into the fray, demanding an apology for the offense to African-Americans and the stereotyping of Southerners. Dean offered no excuses, but attempted to clarify: "We have to reach out to every single American... We don't have to embrace the Confederate flag, and I never suggested that we did. But we have to reach out to all disenfranchised people." (Dean did apologize for his comment the next day.) Most of the candidates also weighed in on the controversial issue of gay marriage and civil unions; all came out in favor of the latter, although only Kucinich went so far as to claim that "Gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender people under my administration would have full participation, and they would also have the right to marry."

One burning question that provoked discomfort from the candidates and laughter in the audience was that of who had smoked marijuana in the past. Although Dean at first avoided the question and seemed to assume that his fellow contenders would join him, he eventually confessed after Kerry and Edwards gave resounding affirmatives—and Moseley-Braun laughingly refused to answer.

After the forum, most of the candidates trickled into the Spin Room to answer questions about the debate from the press. One major issue that went unmentioned in the forum was public education and the No Child Left Behind Act—a significant oversight, considering that the forum was devoted to students and recent graduates of America's school system. In response to a Boston Latin School student's query concerning the act, Edwards expressed multiple concerns about lack of funding and insufficient early education. In his opinion, "There are still two public school systems in this country"; the divide has merely shifted from race to economics. He outlined a proposal to increase teacher pay and provide bonuses to those who volunteer to teach in disadvantaged areas. Dean, when asked about the seemingly ubiquitous apathy of the young voting bloc, suggested that little such apathy existed on his campaign, noting that one fourth of his contributions come from people under thirty. Anderson Cooper offered similar sentiments, proposing a similar forum with President Bush.

When an *Argo* reporter questioned Clarke about the Republican leanings he had exhibited in the past, he replied "I was *never* a Republican...It doesn't matter how long you've been with a party. What matters is the beliefs you hold." He went on to list issues over which he has proven his liberal principles—abortion, gay rights, the death penalty—all the while grasping her firmly by the shoulders to emphasize the point. Clearly, Clark and his Democratic compatriots are eager for the support—and the votes—of the next generation.

With reporting by Erin Durkin, I, and Trude Raizen, II.

Editor's Note

I used to have dreams about writing these clever, insightful editor's notes and wowing the student body with my amazing writing skills. Never did I realize the panic and complete brain freeze that this little box on page 2 could cause. The layout editors have been throwing dirty looks at me for hours, so here goes nothing.

Frequently Asked Questions/Complaints:

1. *You Argonauts are insane. How do I join?*

The best way is to show up and offer your services. My advice is, don't act like a menial job is "beneath" you—it is the worst attitude to reflect to your potential editor. Once you see how dependent editors are on coffee, you will be only too happy to make some Starbucks runs and earn their eternal gratitude.

A meeting for Argonauts-to-be will be held in Room 125 on Thursday, November 21. To submit pieces, you can send them by email to blsargo@email.com or to me at mzhang2@schools.mybps.org You can also submit a hard copy with your name, class and homeroom to Mr. Flynn's office.

2. *The Argo is too liberal!*

For the population of conservatives out there, I have two words for you: *write something*. If you feel so strongly about your point of view, why not write an op-ed and let the student body know it? The passion put into yelling that the Argo leans too left would be put to much better use in an article for the News or Forum section. We

3. *What exactly does the editor do?*

You may be expecting me to tell you all about how I slave over every page and run around like a madman reading every single article. Prospective editors, take heart—the only true part is that I do run around like a madman. There truly is no job description or maximum time commitment for this job. On any given day, I will be trying to talk editors into converting to a religion that doesn't require seeing The Matrix during production week, wheedling suspicious underclassmen into running to CVS for soda, profusely thanking the janitors for putting up with our noise and unbelievable amounts of trash, leaving threatening messages on the voicemails of delinquent editors, sending massive amounts of email, haggling with bake salers for wholesale junk food, making sure we're not doing anything illegal, sweeping, mopping, inadvertently poisoning freshmen, and debating over which article should be kept and which should be cut, which titles are boring or corny or just plain strange.

While the copy editors are silently cursing me for that remarkable run-on, I should add that without the chariot races in the halls, editors threatening not to wear clothes anymore, the rampant hazing, Latin expletives on the board, heated arguments over who's "missing in action" and who's not and, most importantly, the buzz (roar?) of activity when everyone is driven to stay 15 consecutive hours at school to get this done, I definitely wouldn't (and shouldn't) enjoy it as much as I do.



Fenway Faithful Blow a Fuse

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

The 2003 Red Sox inspired hope, joy and crushing sadness. They also inspired mobs, mayhem and riots. The riots, especially those on college campuses, caused thousands of dollars in damage, but the heaviest expense was overtime for police forces.

The worst incident in Boston occurred October 6th, the Monday the Red Sox beat the Oakland A's to win a spot in the American League Championship Series. Police were not prepared for the rowdy fans who poured out of the packed bars surrounding Fenway. Cars were overturned, property was destroyed, and two people exposed themselves. Several arrests were made.

For both the home and away games in the Yankee series almost every special officer in the city was on duty, including riot police, mounted police and motorcycle police. Cars were not allowed to park on the streets surrounding Fenway Park near game time. The stepped-up security proved to be effective. Only two arrests were made after the chaotic Game Three. Inside the park it was the players who beaned, brawled, and in the case of two Yankees, beat up on a Red Sox employee. For Game Seven of the series, Boston Police were stationed at strategic locations all over the city, but in the wake of shocking defeat most fans were too depressed and drained to cause trouble. Police were quick to detain 13 people in the Fenway area, but managed to control violence and vandalism.

College campuses were plagued with riots throughout the playoffs, caused in part by students who had been drinking. There were small skirmishes at some of the Boston schools. The Universities of Rhode Island and New Hampshire each saw several students arrested during the Yankees series. At both institutions there were cars tipped over and dumpsters set on fire.

The heaviest rioting was at the University of Massachusetts. Crowds of UMASS-Dartmouth students had to be dispersed with rubber bullets and pepper spray after the Monday-night American League Division Series victory. One student proclaimed on his web site that this was the school's "first real riot."

UMASS Amherst was the scene of multiple riots. The first, and worst, accompanied the Red Sox's initial playoff win against Oakland on October 4th. Students flipped cars, set fires, broke into a dining hall and threw beer bottles at policemen, who then released pepper spray pellets. Two days later the ALDS victory celebration wasn't nearly as violent because the campus was brightened by floodlights and security would not allow visitors into dormitories. There was trouble again after the first game of the ALCS. The next five games of the series went more smoothly, though students tried to aggravate the situation with nightly chants of "Riot, riot!" Following the seventh and final game students were once again rowdy enough to necessitate the use of tear gas.

The national publicity over the UMASS Amherst riots inspired one student to write an editorial in the college newspaper bemoaning the fact that the school's "riot program" garnered more attention than "great programs like psychology and nursing."

Experts blamed crowds, alcohol consumption, the extreme dedication of Red Sox fans, and even a "Red Sox inferiority complex." Perhaps it was simpler. According to Professor Bernard Lafayette, director of URI's Center for Nonviolent Peace Studies, sports "is the greatest substitute for war."

Boston Latin School
ARGO

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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Mission Statement
Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Jim Montague
Jean Ann Salisbury

Have You Been Volunteering?

By Taphath Giles, I
Contributing Writer

All right, Class of 2004, you have made it to senior year! You have mailed out your applications (or plan to), paid for your caps and gowns (or should have), and now you are counting down the days. We have worked very hard academically and part of our responsibility as a graduating class is to the community.

Have you finished — or even started — your community service hours? There is so much more available to you than positions as library aides or hall monitors. There are other positions that can be filled both at school and in your own community. Tour guides are also needed here during R2. You can volunteer at your local YMCA, which can be a rewarding experience for you and the youth whose life you touch. As seniors at Boston Latin School, many adolescents look up to you. You can become a tutor at your local library or become a part of the Saturday Success School peer tutoring program.

As you know some of your peers were able to work with alumni over the summer. You too have the opportunity to partner with alumni for various volunteering positions. If you would like to know more about these and other volunteer services, please see Ms. Bateman in the PIC office. Not only will you be providing a valuable and honorable service to your community, a reward in itself, but with 100 service hours or more you will be able to end your senior year one week early. If, however, you neglect this service you will not be able to end your senior year at all. So remember: Cleaning up other people's litter: 100 hours. Graduating as part of the Boston Latin School Class of 2004: priceless!

Senior Checklist

FINANCIAL CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS:
- Cap and Gown
- Senior Sweatshirts
- Yearbook
- College Application Fees
- Pay off Debts (Book fees, Library fines, etc.)
- Prom
- All your necessary BLS accessories before you graduate, e.g. shirts, sling pack bookbag, coffee mug, pants, etc.

COLLEGE TIMETABLE:
- Half/completely done filling out college applications.
- Periodic appointments with guidance counselor.
- Contacting college admissions offices for interviews.
- Going to www.fastweb.com to check out scholarship opportunities, national and local.
- Already have given teachers recommendation forms.
- Going on college visits.

Calendar: November–December 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 9	10 Food Drive Begins	11	12 Red Cross Bake Sale Main Foyer	13	14	15 Home and School Auction at 6 p.m.
16	17	18	19 Urban Dance Bake Sale Main Foyer	20	21 Food Drive Ends *The Laramie Project* at 3 and 7 p.m.	22 Boston University Scholarship Final Test *The Laramie Project* at 7 p.m.
23 *The Laramie Project* at 2 p.m.	24 School Site Council at 6 p.m. in 119	25 Red Cross Blood Drive Black Box Theater	26 Early Release	27 Thanksgiving Recess	28 Football Game vs. English High School Thanksgiving Recess	29
30	DECEMBER 1 Boston University Classics Day	2 Second Public Declamation at 8 a.m. (Class V is invited.)	3 *Lampoon* Bake Sale Main Foyer	4	5 Hypnotist sponsored by FHAO at 6:30 p.m.	6
7	8	9 Parents' Financial Aid Workshop at 6 p.m.	10	11	12 *Argo* Issue III Production Ends Improv Performance at 6 p.m.	13 Improv Performance at 6 p.m.

BLS Gets Active with Brand New *BLAH!*

By Marie Delosh, I
Contributing Writer

BLAH! — the *B*oston *L*atin School *A*ctivists are *H*ere! — was recently formed in time for the new school year, and a new extracurricular season. Co-founders Ariana Barr (I) and Amanda Shapiro (I) came up with the idea for a student-run activist group from the Northeastern University affiliation of SLAP (Student Labor Action Project), consisting of student groups and allies who work to challenge injustices facing working people both locally and internationally. The main focus of SLAP will be the same as that of BLAH! — to organize protests and petitions in the Boston area that address problems concerning such issues as global justice, labor rights, and education. The group will also network with other similar groups throughout the country to provide information and understanding of the problems facing our nation and the world.

Amanda first learned about SLAP through her work over the summer with Jobs with Justice, a local association of organizations that deals with campaigns for workers' rights and for the opposition of discrimination. SLAP works directly with Jobs with Justice, and when Amanda brought up its goals to her friends, she and Ariana decided to somehow involve younger people in these groups as well.

"We decided to create a high school club to supplement SLAP, because we wanted to get students involved in the issues SLAP was concerned with," Ariana said, "and you don't have to be a super-activist who agrees with everything we try to do. Just coming out to show your support or spreading the word about us is a big help." Ariana then began to sing "Heal the World," evidence of her true caring for mankind. BLAH! is also non-partisan. The girls stress there are no requirements or qualifications that need to be met in order to join.

Some groups that BLAH! plans to wage protest against include NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), the FTAA (the Free Trade Association of the Americas), and the WTO (World Trade Organization). They will also campaign for the rights of unions and other labor groups. They also plan to investigate some of the effects that standardized testing has had on the education system.

Amanda, who has received a calendar of events that Jobs with Justice is planning, will keep members posted, and said the group will have guest speakers to give updates on current events and issues.

Ms. Freeman will be the club advisor, and the first meeting will be announced soon in the bulletin, so those interested should remember to stay updated on the Boston Latin School website.

News

Say "Hello" to the New Teachers

By Zi Wen Chen, III & Cindy Guan, III
Contributing Writers



Molly M. McDonald
What subject(s) do you teach?
8th grade (Connections) and 9th grade English.
Where were you originally from?
Mollywood. I was also a teacher at the Rogers Middle School in Hyde Park.
What college did you attend?
Stonehill College. Chieftain pride never dies!
What are some of your hobbies?
Accessorizing my life-sized Shakespeare, playing ice hockey and collecting lunch boxes.
How would you describe your experiences at BLS so far?
At first it was difficult because I missed the teachers and staff at my previous school. Due to the budget cuts, I found out where I would be teaching at the very end of August! The students here at BLS have helped me make the transition, along with the teachers and professional staff.



Amina Rhodes
What subject(s) do you teach?
7th Grade English and Enrichment.
Where were you originally from?
Boston, Massachusetts.
What college did you attend?
Hampton University in Virginia.
What are some of your hobbies?
Painting and sketching.
How would you describe your experiences at BLS so far?
Amazing! The students are wonderful and the staff is very supportive. I really enjoy teaching at BLS so far.



Yvonne Powell
What subject(s) do you teach?
World History II and United States History.
Where were you originally from?
Jeremiah Burke High School. I taught World History, United States History and an interdisciplinary course called "The African American Experience."
What colleges did you attend?
Brown University (A.B.), Harvard University (M.P.A.), and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (S.C.M.).
What are some of your hobbies?
Swimming, golf, and reading, reading, reading! I'm also a "news junkie," especially for political news —"The Art of the Impossible."
How would you describe your experiences at BLS so far?
Because I am a graduate of Girl's Latin, my experience as a teacher at Boston Latin brings me full circle back to my academic roots! I am working with a terrific group of young people...young adults who are curious, challenging, and fun to work with! Awesome!



Thomas A. Avery
What subject(s) do you teach?
9th and 10th grade English,
Where were you originally from?
Atlanta, Georgia.
What college did you attend?
Dartmouth College.
What are some of your hobbies?
Writing, reading, running, and singing.
How would you describe your experiences at BLS so far?
I've been very impressed by how smoothly everything runs! Students seem genuinely motivated, but aren't afraid to loosen up and laugh now and then.

Students Not Reading Student Newspaper

By the Disgruntled News Staff
Rough Writers

In some ways, the staff of the BLS Argo resembles the proverbial millions of monkeys pounding away at typewriters in a cramped and confined space: they might, through some miracle, come out with something good every once in a while – but, then again, nobody will read it if they do. Says one student: " I have my hands full reading the original text of *The Canterbury Tales*, *Hamlet*, and *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*. They're a bunch of liberal, exclusive geeks – why should I read them?!" Touche! But why should you read The Argo? Because when you're done reading it you can turn it into a nifty sailor hat, book cover, or billy club! Happy day! Oh, wait. You can't do that. We switched to newsprint. Sorry...

But to keep you informed of the hottest news, we have marinated in our own juices in the steamy jungle-like atmosphere of the Mac Lab. To make sure that you know about the dire straits the school's dwindling paper supply we have subsisted on greasy pizza and faux-chinese food for weeks. To keep your news up-to-date and timely we stay in school until the late hours of Friday night when we *should* be doing better things (some of the best C-SPAN material is aired on Fridays). Then, procrastination allowing, we return in the early hours of Saturday morning to finish the job. And although you have not read a single word of this article past that witty monkey line, we still love you. So...read. Please. We're begging you. Really.



BY JAMES ZHANG, I

Food Column: Bukhara

By Lin Ma, I with Monty Kaplan, II and Johnson Tran, II
Food Columnist & Food Staff

Bukhara Indian Bistro
701 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain, MA
(617) 522-2195
Transportation: 39 Bus, Burroughs St. (across from 2nd CVS on route)

Cuisine Type: Indian
Class: 8/10
Ambience: 9/10
Cleanliness: 8/10
Service: 8/10
Quality: 9/10
Value: 6/10

As the weather cools, heat up your life with the spice of India. Bukhara Indian Bistro is just a bus ride away from Boston Latin, en route to Forest Hills via the 39, on the corner of Centre and Burroughs St. The atmosphere is warm and earthy, with candles glittering on every table at dinner time. Traditional paintings of native scenes provide vibrant windows to India. Even the entrance is a simplified replica of Indian architecture. Barely audible melodies of Indian instruments emphasize the tranquility of the setting, and conversing is only comfortable at a muted volume. The only blemish of the ambiance is the dim lighting which made the simple task of reading the menu an irritating challenge.

A wide range of hot and cold appetizers comes at an equally varied range of prices. Bukhara's simple yet scrumptious Aloo Tikki ($3.50) whets the appetite with just the right taste and texture. A mound of mashed potato is embellished with an Indian spice blend and green peas, and the mixture is deep fried till a crispy shell forms. A minty cool yet peppery hot sauce comes on the side to jazz up the smooth flavor of the potato cakes.

Entrees include familiar dishes such as Murg Vindaloo (chicken, $11.50), exotic dishes such as Rogan Josh (lamb, $11.95), and new takes on usual staples (a whole section of the menu is devoted to various Indian breads, $2.95-$4.50). The Tandoori Mixed Grill ($15.95) arrives at the table sizzling with the best cuts of meat. Contrary to what the name implies, the dish is actually baked in a traditional clay oven (the tandoor) to give it a distinct fragrant flavor. The smoky marinated chicken, mutton, beef, and jumbo (and I do mean jumbo) shrimp is served atop a bed of fresh vegetables. A creamy Masala sauce and fluffy Basmati rice come on the side. Malai Kofta ($11.95) is a vegetarian version of this dish. It's less hardy but still chock full of flavor. The big vegetable balls are enlivened with Malai Kofta ($11.95) bursts of nutty cashews, fresh herbs, and spices. The concoction is served in a golden pot resting upon a candle, which keeps the dish warm all night long.

If you're feeling extra hungry, order one of their massive Dosas ($7.50-$9.95). The thin crepes are made from mashed rice and lentils and stuffed with an assortment of fillings. My pick of the chicken dosa was filled with chunks of barbecued white meat chicken and plenty of spiced potato bits to create of pleasant merge of textures. Lentil soup is served alongside the stodgy dish to soothe the appetite before feasting on the oe]=xotic wrap. Coconut chutney is served on the side as well to provide a dipping option.

During lunch hour, Bukhara offers a full multi-course buffet full of various Indian dishes to sample at an affordable $7.95 ($9.95 on weekends). Perhaps all you can eat will be more worth your money than the hefty price for small-portioned dishes at dinnertime.

Chicken Tikka Masala

Recipe courtesy of Bukhara's homepage www.kashmirspices.com Hard-to-find ingredients can be purchased directly from the website.

Marinade Ingredients:
* 1-2 tsp ginger powder
* 1-2 tsp garlic powder
* 1/2 cup lemon juice
* 2 tsp garam masala (mixture of Indian herbs & spices)
* 1/2 cup vegetable oil
* 1-2 tsp salt
* 1/2 tsp chili powder
* 1 qt plain yogurt

Cut chicken into strips. Marinate chicken 24 hours or at least overnight turning at least once

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove chicken from marinade and place on baking sheet in a single layer Bake twenty minutes until tender

Sauce Ingredients:
* 2 tsp vegetable oil
* 1 15 oz can tomato puree
* 1 medium onion finely chopped
* 1 tsp chopped garlic
* 1 tsp chopped ginger
* 1-2tsp fenugreek
* 1/2 oz hot green chilis (optional)
* salt to taste
* 4-6 oz heavy cream
* 1 tbsp freshly chopped coriander

Saute onion, garlic and ginger in the oil until onion is transluscent add puree, fenugreek, salt and chilis. Heat. Add chicken. Cook 10 minutes adding cream in 1 oz increments and stirring

Stealing No Longer Necessary

By Ke Zhang, III
Webmaster

Recently, Apple Computers strengthened its lead in the booming online market of legalized music downloads with the introduction of the iTunes Music Store for Windows. Apple first introduced the iTunes Music Store to Macintosh users in April and has become an instant success by selling over 13 million songs within its first six months. With the introduction of the same successful store for Windows users, Apple is hoping to make its mark as the dominant, legalized online music distributor.

Online music piracy first became popularized with the introduction of Napster, which started the revolution of illegal distribution and downloading of music. Although it was shut down in 2001, its offspring KaZaA continued the sharing of illegal music online. One reason that this practice has survived for so long is that there has never been any legal alternative.

In April, Apple became the first company to launch a legal online music store with the introduction of the iTunes Music Store. Incorporated into iTunes, Apple's music jukebox software, the music store offers a competitive alternative to illegal music sharing. Introduced with over 200,000 songs from the five major record companies, each song costs 99 cents with no subscription fee of any kind. The only major drawback to the store is that it was only available to Macintosh users. In just half a year, the music store has sold over 13 million songs, counting only the five percent of the computer market that uses Macs. To put this into perspective, 70 percent of all legal music downloads is now done through the iTunes Music Store.



Last month, Apple released the same store for Windows users in hopes of attracting even more customers. Similar to the Mac version, the store is integrated into iTunes. It is currently the only jukebox that supports the AAC music codec, the equivalent to a higher quality mp3 in a smaller file size. Compared to Windows Media Player and MusicMatch jukebox, iTunes has many more useful features without any hidden fees.

In response, many other companies launched competing online music stores. Buymusic.com was launched with the intention of being the first online music store available to windows users. This music store is browser based, meaning that you purchase your music online much like amazon.com. Recently, Roxio launched the second coming of the infamous Napster music sharing software. In this legal version, Napster is very similar to the windows version of Apple's software. Both stores are on stand alone applications and are not browser based. However, the new Napster does not support the new AAC audio codec. While many more music stores will be launched, the gold standard in terms of user rights with downloaded music is the iTunes Music Store.

Why this sudden boom of music stores? One word: lawsuits. The Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) has been actively combating music piracy with hundreds of lawsuits targeting music sharers using KaZaA. The result is that new online music stores are flourishing to provide people with an alternative to the illegal methods of KaZaA. The success of these new music stores is beneficial to all parties by keeping the RIAA, the record companies, and the artists happy.

If you listen to music regularly and have been using KaZaA, go and try the iTunes Music Store. Not only is it the best one available, but it is also the safest alternative one can find.

The Governator

By Victoria Bartolome, II
Staff Writer

Lights. Camera. Politics? The idea that the entertainment realm of Hollywood could have any connection to the political sphere of Washington D.C. has generally been renounced by the public, yet who would have thought that this city of fame would be a generator of future politicians? The recent victory of actor Arnold Schwarzenegger in California's gubernatorial recall election has shone light upon this revolutionary idea that really isn't all that new.

Gubernatorial elections have never received profound national attention, but with 135 candidates including Schwarzenegger, actor Gary Coleman, comedian Leo Gallagher, adult film star Mary Cook, billboard queen Angelyne, and adult magazine publisher Larry Flynt, the race in California quickly became the talk of the nation. The public was amazed, and somewhat amused, that so many entertainers had interest and potential of becoming governor. Critics called the race a sort of "circus" that "provided lots of laughs," but this only took advantage of the stereotype attached to celebrities as unintelligent people, or more frankly "airheads."

Yet, the ultimate victory of Schwartzenegger has proven the appeal of entertainers in the political world, and what's behind their success is a question on everyone's minds. Darrell West, author of *Celebrity Politics*, explains that the edge celebrities get in political races is that they "have high name identification, they can attract a lot of media attention and they're generally very good at raising money." Most importantly, they have the charisma that politicians usually lack. Most people hate politicians, but celebrities have the appealing image among the public that allows them to gain their trust and support more easily.



But are these celebrities really qualified? We've seen Ronald Reagan with his presidential success. Sonny Bono silenced his skeptics by serving four years as mayor of Palm Springs, California, and later in Congress before his untimely death. But celebrity politicians don't always prove to be effective. Former professional wrestler, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, became Minnesota's governor in 1998, being one of the few Independents to beat out a qualified Democrat and Republic and take office. Yet, in the course of his term, Ventura repelled the state press, made statements that angered the public, and struggled working with the Minnesota legislature. So we shouldn't hasten to bet our hopes on a promising term for Arnold. It's quite obvious he lacks the policy knowledge. Many have already laughed at his stumbled sayings. Regarding Bush's attack on gay marriage, Schwartzenegger remarked, "I think gay marriage should be between a man and a woman." However, from the corrupt and incompetent Gray Davis administration and with support from President Bush, the people of California look on Schwarzenegger with high hopes.

The new governor is leading with a strong start. Along with a reform and environmental plan already set up, he expresses a five-point plan for economic recovery in California, which includes the development of a fair tax structure, a solution to California's energy cost crisis, and the support of putting more money towards schools and education. He will be sworn into office later this month, but meanwhile, he is making use of his transition team and holding meetings with Bush and other politicians. Will Arnold survive the pressures and responsibilities of governing the large state of California? Surely, his strong "Terminator" image and promising plans are winning the hearts of California people. His website contains this heartwarming statement: "I came here with absolutely nothing and California has given me absolutely everything. And today California has given me the greatest gift of all. You've given me your trust by voting for me...I will not fail you. I will not disappoint you. And I will not let you down."

'Matrix' Fails to Revolutionize

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

Dedicated Matrix fans have probably already seen The Matrix Revolutions. Everyone else shouldn't bother. The third and (hopefully) final Matrix movie, Revolutions, features recycled special effects, bad acting, cheap insights on human nature, and more of the Wachowski brothers' signature it-should-have-ended-ten-minutes-ago battle scenes.

Here is a review: *The Matrix* is a fantasy world that machines use to control humans so that they can harness the humans' energy. The underground city of Zion, in the real world, shelters a colony of free humans. These rebel fighters often go into *The Matrix*, battling "programs" of the machines as they try to rescue more enslaved people. One program, the Oracle, provides guidance and help to the free humans. These real people have learned how to manipulate *The Matrix* to acquire a variety of superhuman powers, but if they die in *The Matrix* their bodies die in the real world. Neo (Keanu Reeves) is a freed human who is thought to be The One, the person who will destroy the machines. In *Reloaded*, Neo faces the renegade program Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) inside the Matrix, while on the outside, Zion has one day to prepare for the machines' attempt to destroy the city.

Radical special effects are what made the original *Matrix* an immediate hit. The second *Matrix* had a few of these as well. *Revolutions* features some new tricks: upside down and airborne fighting. But this just isn't novel enough to wow viewers; compounding the problem is that in their third attempt the Wachowski brothers have again failed to master the art of brevity in battle scenes.

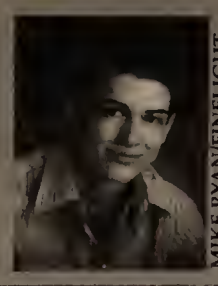
Further detracting from what resembles a plot are the shallow moments of enlightenment on human nature.

A trashy romance novel contains the same simplistic messages about human dishonesty, the definition of love

Continued on page 7

A&E

Spotlight
Matt DiVito


MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

By Lily Mooney, I
Staff Writer

You have probably seen him cruising the first floor hallway at some point this year. He doesn't talk much: he has a certain air of mystery about him. He's always got a mischievous look in his eye. Students of various grades and genders confess to being secretly in love with him.

But this article is not about Mr. Flynn.

Matt DiVito traverses that same hallway every morning and calmly shoves through the noisy mass of seniors counting the minutes of sleep they've gotten. Matt is quieter than most at first sight, he's more likely to laugh nervously or make a face at you than shout "hey". There is a lot to be learned about Matt: he's talented and constantly involved in some kind of art, music and/or drama. To top it off, he has nice slacks.

Matt hails from the North End and is actually originally from Colorado. He moved to Atlanta at age 10, and moved to Boston, a few years later, entering Latin as a B-sie. Though he creates art and music outside of the Latin School community, we have luckily gotten a taste of a few of Matt's talents.

If you've had the chance to be in the same general area as Matt and a guitar, you should know that he plays and plays well. He first picked one up in the eighth grade, while still living in Georgia where, with a few friends, he formed his first band. Two years later, he hooked up with his current band, the Futon Police, who won the audience's pick in the BLS Battle of the Bands last year, and who have already produced a CD. Matt is also currently excelling in AP Music Theory.

"I draw pictures," said Matt about his work in Art AP. I, a savvy journalist, have investigated this: he does, in fact, draw pictures. You could take his word for it, or explore the art classroom on the fifth floor. The few drawings I've seen show obvious skill, and interesting, unconventional subject matter. None of these "fruit-in-a-basket" still lifes for Matt. In addition to Art AP he takes Computer Graphics, and I have it on good authority that he makes "nasty" Flash animations.

Just when you thought, "Man, he really does have nice slacks," he surprises you again with his abilities in yet another area—drama. Matt has been performing in Center Stage Productions since 10th grade, appearing in *You Can't Take It With You, TV* and *The Dining Room*. He's a versatile actor and has played a variety of roles: everything from a tax collector to "Wonderboy" to a therapy-deprived architect. A funny person and good company backstage, Matt has added a lot to the productions personally and artistically.

I don't know Matt well enough to describe his deeper feelings on art and the nature of man, and he probably wouldn't let me if I did. But having spent a little bit of time with him I've gotten to enjoy the talent and the company of a multi-faceted artist. I've read one hilarious strip of his comic, "Tropical Robot Man." Once, while making conversation about our plans for the summer, Matt described to me the full, detailed plot of a screenplay he intended to write. I remember riding home on the bus from last year's Drama Guild semifinals while Matt improvised an exuberant victory song on the guitar that eventually had everyone singing along at the top of their lungs. Creation just seems to come naturally to Matt, and he's doing it all the time with the energy and ability that would make most of us scratch our heads and say, "Where can I get slacks like that?"

Coming to the Forefront

By Ulrike Kraeft, II
Staff Writer

There have been conflicting reports regarding the Boston Latin School Wolfettes. These girls have not been at the forefront since their formation early last year; their first and only performance was at the Holiday Concert. It seems that their presence is not yet felt, since according to Joanne Chan (II) they're "a cappella, that's all I know," and Michelle Zawaski (II) went as far as to declare, "Who the hell are the Wolfettes?" This seems to be the predominant idea around the school. The public is very uninformed of what's been happening with this singing group.

This year's membership has been slimmed down to 12 from 15 girls, losing some—including founders Casey Kennedy, Katie Rambo and Christina Kwan—but also admitting others. This year led by Ariana Barr (I) and Gretchen LaFond (I), juniors and seniors dominate the group, with one admirable sophomore.

At the beginning of the year, the Wolfettes screen potential talent. The ability to blend, harmonize, "stick-out" and sing notes straight off the page (sight reading) with three others is considered, and eventually the list is narrowed down. They also have to demonstrate their range so they can be placed according to their abilities.

After the selection process, each girl brings in three songs of her choice. The members have the opportunity to voice their opinions on which songs they sing, as it is decided upon by majority rule. It's a brutal process, but it works. Similar songs are eliminated, and the appropriateness of tune and lyrics is evaluated to minimize offense. There are no "parental advisory" stickers on these melodies. This systematic method brings the final song count to five. That may sound like very little, however, the work that goes into preparing each of these songs a cappella, is very time-consuming. Many of these songs are meant to be sung with an accompaniment, not solely with voice. Most of this work is picked up by Ariana Barr who is intimate with music theory, especially composing.

At a typical Wolfette practice session, the lively bunch of natural-born performers start up with, contrary to belief, regular chitchat. They then do vocal warm-ups that may sound funny to others, but are essential for voice maintenance. Future events are also on the agenda of items to be discussed. Then comes the dive into the material, under the seemingly merciless command of Ariana and Gretchen, while their collective dedication and talent pay off to give the group confidence and, superb sound. This year, don't miss them at the Holiday Concert, where we'll hear, among others, *O Holy Night*.

On the issue of outfit, there is general consensus that they'll probably have the same appearance as last year. Certainly, we don't want a group of awesome but gruesomely mismatched young ladies not dressed for the business of entertainment. The weekly 90-minute sessions are supplemented by each Wolfette learning, practicing and memorizing the tunes at home. A lot of hard work and patience goes into perfecting their melodies. However, I'll leave it up to you to decide what you think of this colorful vocal array. Opinions are divided, maybe because we haven't heard a lot from the a cappella group, or as one student puts it: "Wolfettes?! They just need a better name."

Bringing the 'Love' to Faneuil

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

Yes, the rumors are true: the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of the masterpieces Beloved and Song of Solomon was at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday, October 29. There she talked about her new novel, Love. It's not everyday that one gets the chance to meet as prolific and of such note as Toni Morrison. Her novels usually focus on African-American characters, highlighting the discrimination that they have had to face in this country. Blending magical realism with lyrical language and a wry sense of humor, Morrison's novels are always interesting and usually end enigmatically, inviting the reader to derive from the book what they will. The opportunity to possibly speak with her piqued the interests of many students. On a night when most students were at home, many trooped over to the Hall. Unfortunately, several students were turned away since Faneuil Hall was soon filled beyond its capacity, attesting further to Morrison's widespread popularity and renown.

One student who had the good fortune of being able to attend was Ruthzee Louijeune (I). She reflected that one of the main reasons why she was so eager to go was not only the opportunity to meet a real writer, but also because, as an African-American female, she related to Morrison in a way that some may not be able to. The first half-hour of the event was spent with Morrison reading the nine-page introduction to her eighth novel, Love, which Louijeune described, saying "half an hour on nine pages sounds crazy, but seriously, it was great." The next half-hour was spent in answering questions, some of which were "irrelevant" according to the ever-pragmatic Louijeune; at one point, Morrison even scolded one person for using words that she felt were unnecessarily big.



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Morrison admitted that, while the title of her book is a bit clichéd, she feels that this novel goes above and beyond the usual fare. However, she warns that some people tend to "overanalyze" her work, something which she hopes will be avoided with this new novel. Morrison also revealed that none of her characters are real people, but instead are pulled from the back of her mind, and for whom she creates the lives that are captured in her novels. She also, somewhat ironically, noted that the hardest thing about writing a novel isn't knowing how to stop; it's knowing when to stop.

It is evident that the evening was well worth attending. Everyone who was unable to make it should be sure to read Love, which promises to be just as compelling as her previous novels. I close with a quote from Morrison, given when she was asked whether she liked the film version of her novel Beloved:

"I sold 800,000 copies after that movie came out – did I like that movie? I LOVED that movie!"

Spoken like a true writer.

Improv: Comedy on the Run

By Emma Halas-O'Connor, III
Contributing Writer

"Once there was a cat. He liked fish-sticks." A roar of laughter erupts from the enthusiastic members of the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe, interrupting the tale of the cat and its fish sticks. This game, known as "One Word Story," in which each person contributes one word to create (if all goes well) a coherent story, is one of many warm-up exercises used to get the group's creativity flowing. Some other exercises commonly used are "Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors", "The Ad Game", "Park Bench", and "Hot Spot"which are all aimed at getting the group ready for more complicated scenes.

Once the group are sufficiently geared up and ready to go, a succession of comical scenes follows, acted out by two or three members of the club at a time, while the rest of the troupe looks on, never failing to reward a funny line with raucous laughter and much applause. This audience, while supportive of their fellow troupe members during the scenes, is very willing to offer criticism after the scene is over. The atmosphere is alive with a quirkiness found nowhere else; a refuge for anyone who wants to enjoy having fun on stage without tryouts or auditions. One of the three co-captains of the troupe and long time improv member, Joe Gels, comments that "If you want to do the Center Stage plays you have to audition, with improv you just have to show up."

However chaotic the ninety minutes of Monday afternoon improv practice may seem, this club is certainly not the place to just goof off. The three co-captains of the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe, Joe Gels (II), Lily Mooney (I), and Liz Finlayson (III), are in charge of making sure that out of all the silliness, something is accomplished in preparation for the upcoming Yellow Submarine Improv Show on the 12th and 13th of December. When addressing the development of the troupe's overall skills, Joe Gels states that "we're coming along very well this year- we seem to be making some good progress when you start out you don't have a lot of the basics." The troupe has indeed made progress, experimenting with more complicated forms of improvisation, such as the "Melvin," an format described by Joe Gels as "a series of scenes with connections and inter-twinings (you can) stick a game in there if you want (its) just a good time." Overall, the troupe seems to be making real headway towards the main goal, expressed by Lily Mooney as "to be as good at doing complex scenes as we can."

The Improv Troupe has been developing its games and performances since 1999, when Ms. Teasdale, as an addition to the drama department, started a small improv workshop. Several students took an interest, and eventually began running the club themselves. They've used ideas from books and members of professional improv institutions such as Improv Boston and the Improv Asylum to learn new tactics. Most of these students, among them Jack Ferris, Josh Michel, Mike Guerra, and others, have graduated from Boston Latin School in the past two years. Although, as Joe Gels remarks, the troupe "lost a lot of talented people," the improv troupe doesn't seem to lack in new ambitious ideas. With new performance styles yet to be experimented with as well as tentative plans for improv competitions between other high schools, the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe is still going strong in their 5th year.

A&E

Apocalypse London

By Bieta Andemariam, I
Assistant A&E Editor

It's a little late for Hallowen, but if you were smart, you rented *28 Days Later* and watched it Halloween night. For those of you who have yet to experience it, you're missing out.

28 Days Later, the new film by Danny Boyle (Trainspotting), made a huge impact months ago when it was released. It has recently been released on DVD, complete with three alternative endings, so fans can subject themselves to it all over again and new viewers can experience it for themselves. I hate to spoil movies, so for those of you who wish to remain blissfully ignorant, please stop reading this article now.

Like all good horror movies, this one has about ten minutes of premise: animal rights extremists break into a lab in which chimps are being subjected to videos of human atrocities. Appalled, they free one, against the warnings of a scientist who has the misfortune of walking in on them mid-liberation; he tells them the chimps are infected with "rage" and that it is transmitted through the blood. When the first extremist is bitten, she immediately transforms into a red-eyed, blood-vomiting zombie.

Please note, however, that though outside sources have referred to this movie as a "zombie" movie, the word is never mentioned in the film, and I believe it misconstrues the storyline. This is not a cheesy zombie movie, and no one is resurrected from the dead. Rather, the whole premise is eerily scientific, making this a plausible apocalypse.

The movie fast-forwards 28 days when Jim (Cillian Murphy) wakes up from a coma to find the entirety of London deserted. These shots are superb, with an eerily desolate city and a score that reflects his growing apprehension.

Jim encounters his first "infected" in a church, and is saved by two other survivors, one named Selena (Naomie Harris). They



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explain to him that all of England, and quite possibly the world, is either dead, infected, or one of the few survivors. The only point now is to survive.

The rest of the story follows them in their journeys in unsuccessfully relocating their family, finding other survivors and heading to a military base that isn't the haven they had hoped it would be.

But what makes this movie a fantastic horror movie? There are classic close-calls, stressful chase scenes, gratuitous violence, as well as the usual last-woman, last-man love story — standard thriller stuff. Yet this movie follows in the tradition of great horror films with stunning cinematography, intense realism, and a tense musical score.

Boyle chose well when he decided to use the bleached digital film that is becoming more common in movies, as opposed to steadycams that would otherwise give the movie a polished, smooth feeling. The shots are done with an emphasis on action, speed, and shadow.

The "infected" themselves are original. Rather than hollow eye sockets, they have blood-soaked eyes, rather than a slow, if-you-can't-outrun-them-you-ought-to-die pace, they are quick, with jerky, spasmodic movements and rather than a depressing moan, make a disgusting rasping sound.

Cillian Murphy is an extremely enjoyable lead for reasons including, but not limited to (ladies—note title) his acting abilities. Yet, the most engaging character is by far the kind-hearted, optimistic father Frank, played by Brendan Gleeson.

As well as the male characters were cast, the female characters seem lack. Harris is overly melodramatic, especially in her opening monologue (which is hard to do, considering she's talking about the end of the world). Megan Burns, who plays Frank's daughter, Hannah, sleepwalks through most of her lines, which works very well, but only when she's doped up on Valium.

This movie is obviously not for the faint of heart, as it contains quite a bit of nudity, lots of blood, lots of violence, and is ultimately meant to scare the living daylights out of you. Have fun!

'Matrix' Fails to Revolutionize

Continued from page 5

A trashy romance novel contains the same simplistic messages about human dishonesty, the definition of love and the persistence of the human spirit. These themes come as no surprise; the first two installments of *The Matrix* were saturated with much of the same.

Revolutions fails similarly in dealing with love, unless the Wachowski brothers intended to induce guffaws and eye-rolling from their audience. Several couples in the movie display a trite and unrealistic devotion to each other. Then, *Revolutions* sinks to the lowest depths of cliché near the end in a gushy scene between Neo and Trinity. On the bright side, *Scary Movie III* will have plenty of new material to work with.

Revolutions is brought down by its shoddy screenplay and unconvincing acting. But some actors stand out for excellent performances. Mary Alice almost fills the shoes of the late Gloria Foster, who played an excellent Oracle in the first two movies. The reason for the change of bodies even



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fits plausibly into the plot. Hugo Weaving plays the vital role of many Agent Smiths with conviction. Lambert Wilson was once again bitingly hilarious as Merovingian, a powerful computer program in the body of a whitty Frenchman. If the other stars had been as good as these three, a ticket to *Revolutions* may have turned out to be money well spent.

The Matrix Revolutions predictably ties up the story's loose ends. It even leaves open the possibility for yet another *Matrix* movie. *Matrix* die-hards willing to suspend their powers of analytical thinking will be rewarded with a satisfying conclusion to the trilogy. Normal moviegoers will see a mediocre blockbuster. Anyone looking for quality entertainment should rent the original.

Theater Opportunities 2003-2004

By James Barned-Smith, III
Staff Writer

The BLS Drama Club has more than just plays going on this year. Here is a list of Drama Club events and, for the aspiring actor, opportunities during the year:

I. Center Stage Productions - The Laramie Project; play by Moises Kaufman

The Laramie Project, directed by Nafkote Tamirat (I), is the 2003-2004 fall production. It is a play in three acts that chronicles the reactions of the people of Laramie, Wyoming, to the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard. This play has already been cast and rehearsals have been going on for over a month - but they will be performing November 21, 22, or 23. It is a heavy subject, but stellar performances from the cast should make it an excellent and informative experience.

II. Center Stage Productions - Dimly Perceived Threats to the System; play by John Klein

Dimly Perceived Threats to the System will be the Drama Club's winter production, as well as its entrant into the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild competition. Lydia Downing (I) will direct this dark, one-act comedy about "the breakdown of the nuclear family." Expect to see auditions on December 2nd and 3rd.

III. Center Stage Productions - Promises, Promises; play by Neil Simon

Promises, Promises will be the spring production, and will be directed by Bieta Andemariam (I). *Promises, Promises* is a comedy set in the 1960s about a young man trying to make it in the business world. Auditions should be held in late April so keep your eye open, especially if you have been unsuccessful with the previous two plays.

IV. Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe

They're loud, they're sometimes obnoxious, and they're always hilarious. There will be three improv shows this year, the first of which you can see on the weekend of December 12th. Despite the graduation of a huge chunk of last year's club, the Troupe is still looking strong (if somewhat comparatively youthful), and should be fine under the watch of co-captains Lily Mooney (I), Joseph Gels (II), and Elizabeth Finlayson (III). Expect to be rolling on the floor laughing during the shows and to see some actors from the other plays.

V. The Peer Players

The Peer Players is the BLS Shakespeare troupe. They visit classrooms, performing pieces and taking questions from the students. They haven't been around for the past couple of years, but Natasha Ramanayake (I), and Radhike Garland are looking to start a revival with Drama Club Advisor Sarah Teasdale. Look for possible opportunities to audition

VI. Cabaret Night

As of my last check, Cabaret Night will not be happening this year.

So what does this boil down to?

If you need some entertainment and want to support the award-winning Drama Club, then come to one (or two) of these performances. You won't be disappointed.

Spotlight
Emilia Zambrano



MIKE RYAN/ FINELIGHT

By Muching Zhang, I
Editor-in-Chief

Upon hearing via AIM that she was going to be a spotlight, Emilia's exact words were "ah." This may not be the artsy answer one'd expect from a Spotlight-to-be, but the half-asleep Emilia we see click-clicking around in her combat boots coexists in a parallel universe with the Emilia who refers to her violin as "my baby."

Emilia (not Amelia or Emelia) Alicia Iacono Zambrano, was born into a trilingual and very musical family. Her father, a wisecracking Texican jazz musician, and her mother, an old-Italian fan of Neapolitan love songs, have always supported her fourteen (and counting)-year career in the violin. In turn, Emilia has dedicated her life to perfecting her art by going to private lessons at the Longy School of Music.

Emilia is concertmaster for the Senior String Ensemble (that's String Ensemble, she insists, not the ubiquitous Band). She has been leading the Chamber Orchestra since sophomore year, as well as the Encore String Quintet. Walk by the Music Wing, and one will either hear her beautiful concertinos wafting through the air, or Emilia's unique squeal-screech-shriek piercing through it while she chases after some unsuspecting sixie. The Emilia before and after the performance is a bundle of nerves-- from attacking her food to running barefoot away from Ms. Kelley and into a wall, but onstage she is the picture of confidence and leadership.

In between violin, Emilia decided in her sophomore year to take up ballroom dancing lessons. Beneath the blunt "I-despise-mushiness" is a diehard romantic who has every detail of her wedding decided, down to the playing of Musetta's Waltz as she walks down the aisle. These days, even the snide comments have died down, perhaps because of a certain member of the Argo Staff. The Emilia we see glows with love, even as she staggers out of class with sweater imprints all over her face.

Although the real-world Emilia is agonizingly picky about everything from what she wears (matching is out of the question) to what she is going to name her first child (it took months to talk her out of "Dweezil"), the artistic Emilia is open to a variety of music. Emilia is co-president of this year's Show Choir, singing and dance to "Footloose" and "What the World Needs Now is Love."

I have known Emilia since the first day of sixie orientation, where I scrambled into Ms. Brun's homeroom late and dashed into the first seat I could find, next to a girl who looked as intimidated as I was. Since then we have bonded over awful teachers, every holiday in the calendar, disastrous performances, broken hearts, trips to Texas for Christmas, pasta dinner confessions, getting lost in Chelsea, midnight ponderings on our futures and the meaning of life, everything that has defined our six years together. The tiny poncho-wearing girl who used to squeal/screech/shriek "te quiero matar!" at me every day has grown to be a dedicated and well-loved (but just as tiny) member of the Arts Department.

Emilia's comment upon reading this article: 'ohmygodddd!!!!!! thisissobeautifu lllllll!!!!"

Need I say more?

What's race got to do with it?

By Erin Durkin, I
Assistant Forum Editor

On September 10, 2003, six black students were absent from Boston Latin School. So were seventeen white students, eight Asians, and three Hispanics. How do I know? I know because every day, the attendance report that the Registrar's office at Boston Latin School sends to the school department is broken down by race. Look at a copy of the daily attendance report sent downtown, and you will not be able to tell how many male and female students were absent, how many students were missing from each homeroom, or how various grade levels compare in their attendance. You will, however, see ten neat little boxes, indicating how many black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American students were absent or tardy.

Latin School does not choose on its own to record attendance in this way. According to the Registrar's office, the administration would prefer to be able to track attendance by grade level. Yet the Boston School Department mandates that every school use a computer program that automatically breaks down absences and tardies by race. The BPS, in turn, is compelled by the Massachusetts Racial Imbalance Law, which states that "The prevention or elimination of racial imbalance shall be an objective in all decisions involving the drawing or altering of school attendance lines,"(Massachusetts General Laws 71 §37C) and that, "The school committee of each city...shall annually...submit to the commissioner statistics sufficient to enable a determination to be made of the percent of white and non-white pupils attending...each public school under the jurisdiction of each such committee."(M.G.L. 71 §37D) Any school district that does not comply with these provisions faces a loss of all the money it receives from the state. In addition to determining how many students of each race are actually enrolled at each school (a figure gleamed from attendance statistics collected on a set day in October), the law is aimed at closing the so-called "achievement gap" — a phenomenon in which black and Hispanic students have consistently scored lower than their white and Asian counterparts on standardized tests and other measures of academic prowess. Good attendance has often been shown to be a prerequisite for high academic achievement. According to Richard Cole, an official in the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office, tracking attendance by race is essential so that school districts can determine whether a particular racial group has an abnormally high dropout or truancy rate and then target resources at outreach to other kids from that background.

Closing the racial achievement gap is certainly a laudable goal. Yet collecting attendance statistics by race is still a bad idea. First of all, racial information collected on students at Boston Latin School is so flawed as to be almost meaningless. Every student's race is self-reported, derived from data provided on the registration form for the ISEE, the test to get into Latin School. "Describe Yourself: Please check the appropriate box," the registration bulletin reads obliquely, and it then allows the student to check a box for black, white, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American. Most students complete this form at the age of eleven, when they can hardly be expected to have a clear idea of their "racial identity." Blatant errors are not impossible; Brittany Colleran (I), who is white, reports having her race recorded as black for several years for reasons unbeknownst to her (all the while, her twin sister's race was recorded correctly). More importantly, the registration form does not offer any options for multiracial students. No matter how many different races make up his background, a student must check one box and only one, must classify himself as either "black" or "white," either "Asian" or "Hispanic," but never as a combination thereof. According to Mr. Haberstroh, there was once a case in which two siblings with both of the same parents attended Boston Latin School. One chose to classify himself as black, and was recorded as such, while the other chose to be considered white. And neither could be told he was wrong. The system of collecting racial data reflects an outdated, black-and-white way of thinking that no longer applies in a world where racial lines are becoming increasingly blurred. It vastly oversimplifies a complicated, multifaceted situation.

Attendance Report Totals:

	Black	White	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	Totals
Absent (Excused)	6	17	8	3	0	34
Tardy	13	13	9	4	0	39
Totals	19	30	17	7	0	73

Attendance is in fact an important predictor of academic success, and kids with attendance problems should be targeted for intervention. But they should be targeted as *individuals,* not as members of a racial group. There is no logical connection between race and attendance, and attempting to create one is counterproductive. Targeting an entire race because some of its members have had attendance problems is an inefficient way to use resources, and it tars all the members of a racial group with a stigma they do not deserve. The current system uses race as a proxy for a host of other factors—socioeconomic status, family situation, and personal choice—that *do* contribute to attendance trends. The assumption that race equates with disadvantage and absenteeism is not only inaccurate, it is racist in and of itself.

Ideology aside, the policy of collecting attendance by race clearly has not achieved its purpose. The Massachusetts Racial Imbalance law was first passed in 1965, yet the achievement gap still persists. The problem has been studied and analyzed to death, but nothing effective has actually been done to solve it. Indeed, there is a serious possibility that the collection of attendance data by race will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Repeat over and over that "Asians don't come to school" or "Hispanics are always late," and it should be no surprise when kids from those particular backgrounds begin to exhibit the behaviors that they think are expected from them.

On a fundamental level, collecting attendance by race makes race an issue where it shouldn't be. Says Cole at the Attorney General's office, "We don't make race an issue so people can be separated, but to break down barriers." Yet separating people is exactly what results from an attendance form, or any form, with little boxes for black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American. Breaking down barriers means getting rid of these little boxes, recognizing that we're all just people, and the color of our skin has nothing to do with anything. Categorizing attendance by race just reinforces divisions between people based on a purely artificial distinction. We should be working towards a color-blind society, one where race doesn't matter at all, where the concept of race, a social construct with no basis in biological fact, doesn't exist at all. Even when the purported goal is to promote equality, endless breaking down of data by race moves us in the wrong direction by sending the message that race matters.

Choice Words

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

"That's so retarded."

We have all heard it. We all have probably said it. We don't mean anything by it, really. It's just an expression. Or is it?

What does this commonplace teenage expression mean? In the context above, the word "retarded" is used to mean "dumb," "stupid," or "inappropriate." The word "retarded," or the more politically correct "developmentally delayed," is used by society to describe many people who have special needs, ranging from severe handicaps to minor disabilities. Yet by using the same adjective to mean "bad," "dumb," or "stupid" the word and the mental condition take on a negative connotation. It sparks shame and a sense of inferiority. It also trivializes the condition that many people endure. The actual word "retard" is a verb meaning to stop. Thus, by calling someone "retarded" one implies that something in them has stopped, whether their mental capacity, social appropriateness, or a variety of other things this word has come to encompass.

Teenagers do not say things such as "he is socially retarded" to intentionally bring about shame or to degrade peoples with mental disabilities, but that is exactly what these commonplace phrases do. Words hurt, no matter how often we as a society have been desensitized to them: they still have a power to bring about shame, sadness, anger, and a sense of inferiority.

This summer I had the privilege of working at a center for develop mentally delayed adults. The program was in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. Thus many of the men and women I worked with this summer could crudely be defined as "retarded."

Every time I hear someone use the word "retarded" in the incorrect context, I think of the people with whom I worked over the summer. I think of how brave they were. I think of how accepting they were of each other, how quickly they welcomed me into their lives, how genuine they were, and how trusting.

I think of the day when I learned one of the men had die. I cried. We all cried. I was supposed to be supporting the men and women who had lost their friend, but all I could do was cry. While I was not being strong and was crying I felt a hand on my hand. It was one of the men reaching over to comfort me, to hold my hand: to help me.

This man is what society would call "retarded." When we say things like "that is so retarded," we are comparing something to not only this man but to the many people living today with disabilities. These people are compassionate, genuine, loyal, trusting, and open. Above all else, however, they possess a courage of which most of us can only dream. Every day they live in a world that is insensitive to their disabilities, a world that trivializes their disabilities, a world that overlooks them. People are usually not openly discriminatory, but rather their unconscious ignorance, displayed in the commonplace phrase "that is so retarded" and the use of retarded as an adjective that degrades, gives off on overall message of insensitivity. This is wrong. The word "retarded" taken out of context is hurtful and insensitive, but most importantly it is degrading and misguided.

Unquestionable Loyalty

By Ruthzee Louijeune, I
Staff Writer

Let's face it: the many events that have occurred over the last two years have drastically changed people's attitudes towards immigration. To deny this fact would be a complete lie. The slurs "TWA" (Third World Assassin) and "FOB" (Fresh off the Boat) are freely tossed about. There have been attempts to ban the immigration of people from certain countries, slowly slipping away into the former traditions of this country in the early 1900s. Some irate American citizens have gone as far as advocating for a ban on immigration during the war in Iraq. It may be difficult to understand the attitudes of these people, given that America is a country that was built by immigration. Though I disagree with the extreme proposals of a handful of Americans, I am able to see their rationale. There is the important issue of loyalty to the American government, especially during times of war. From all of this confusion, the controversial topic of "dual citizenship" finds its way across various dinner tables and onto the floors of the Senate.

When foreign nationals become United States citizens at a naturalization ceremony, they must say "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen . . ." While this may be a noble attempt to gain the loyalty of immigrants, such an oath cannot be implemented in its full meaning as long as the practice of dual citizenship is in existence. The idea of a naturalized U.S. citizen holding citizenship in another nation worries me. This can be considered "political polygamy". It is not feasible for a person to offer allegiance to one country, yet retain allegiance to the former country. The subject of whom we can really trust, in particular during times like these, then arises. Being loyal to the American government and being a United States citizen does not necessarily mean that one must agree wholeheartedly with the actions of the government. It does mean that one must not help the enemy and must protect the welfare of fellow citizens. It does mean that one must not hold conflicting allegiances.

I believe that immigration is an important asset to America. Our economy, our society, and our culture depends on it, and to restrict immigration in any way would be a violation of what America has symbolized for more than 200 years. The loyalty of these immigrants who often obtain their desired U.S. citizenship should not be questioned, but the allowance of dual citizenship produces an understandable sense of uneasiness. Speaking as the daughter of naturalized citizens who cannot obtain dual citizenship because of the policies of their native land, but nonetheless retain aspects of their culture, I am being realistic. Dual citizenship should be revoked in order to deprive immigration opponents of an excuse to question immigrants' loyalty to their adopted nation. The concept in itself is an oxymoron: one cannot truly be a citizen of two countries because ultimately loyalty cannot be divided.

Do Cultural Clubs Promote Self-Segregation?



BY TRACY HIDELMAN, II

Yes

By Caitlin McGovern, I
Contributing Writer

In our school we have a variety of ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds. Most of us are proud of our heritage and celebrate it, as we should. We also "mix" very well. Most of us have lots of friends each differing in ethnic background. This gives us the opportunity to not only learn about our friends' personalities but also about their culture and traditions.

This noble idea, the sharing of cultures, is the basis for most of the ethnic clubs at Boston Latin School, but unfortunately it does not always produce the desired results. Most clubs that label themselves as composed of one ethnicity end up with a majority of members solely from that ethnicity. Although it's great that a group can get together to learn the history of their culture, it also creates friendships solely based on ethnicity. If a group of people are friends simply because they all have the same color skin or are from the same country, it's usually called segregation.

This segregation based on choice is the worst kind of segregation: it is self-segregation. One isn't forced to be separated from other ethnicities; one chooses of one's own free will. Instead of learning about other cultures and therefore creating understanding and acceptance, ethnic clubs focus on isolationism. They isolate themselves from others based on race. If one creates a group of friends that are solely of one ethnicity, then how or when does one learn of other cultures? Through the bare minimum that you learn during history class? I don't think that cuts it.

Theoretically one can always argue that these clubs are open to everyone. But how many Asians students get involved in the Irish Club or vice versa? It's unrealistic to think that an individual would join a club labeled with an ethnicity different from his own. And often one hears of situations in which students feel uncomfortable being the only representative of their ethnicity in any group.

I think we can all agree that self-segregation is bad, that it's actually horrible. We know it promotes racism and denies one the ability to learn, understand, and accept. Some may argue that "it is perfectly natural for people of the same ethnicity or race to group together." Why? Is there some "cosmic" connection between people of the same race? I think not. Race is a biological fiction. It was invented to separate people and create a class system based on the pigment of one's skin. So, why should we let the remains of a fictional class system divide us? Once self-segregation begins, we know that we are only one step away from stereotypes and judgments, which directly leads to racism.

I certainly don't think that any of this self-segregation is intentional, and I don't believe anyone purposely prevents themselves from understanding or accepting a different culture. I think it is merely a "side effect." As Boston Latin School students, we don't have a lot of time to socialize, and when we do it usually occurs through extracurricular activities. If those extracurricular activities limit the diversity of the relationships we create, then when will we find the time to make another group of friends of different ethnicities in order to learn about different cultures and broaden our horizons?

I just think it's difficult to create those relationships when one is so preoccupied with preserving and learning about one's own culture. Perhaps instead of limiting a club to a single ethnicity, we should promote a club which allows everyone to discuss and share all of our cultures. Remember that most of us aren't influenced by only one culture; most of us share two or three different ethnicities. We are not singular beings sharing space: we are individuals from different backgrounds creating a community. We have to share and learn about one another, and ethnic clubs just don't provide a comfortable environment for that exchange.

I believe that the civil rights movement has proven to us that separate but equal doesn't work. So why should we perpetuate the separation? Yet staying separated is exactly what ethnic clubs prompt us to do. They make us think about race; they make us divide ourselves by it.

No

By Wendy Lam, I and Joanne Wong, I
Contributing Writers

Is this Culture Club "A" only for Race "A"? What will they think or say if I join? Will they think any less of me just because I'm of Race "B"? Will I fit in?

This is just a sample of questions that students often times ask themselves when they decide to join a culture club. Despite the seemingly exclusive appearance of clubs containing a majority of a single race, culture clubs do not promote such self-segregation. Club leaders are merely trying to spread their cultures to interested parties and to those who possess a passion for learning more about other customs. The lingering question remains: Why do certain culture clubs have such discriminatory reputations? One of the most common misconceptions is that club leaders are at fault for this. The following is a list of probable explanations as to why students of a certain race prefer to congregate amongst themselves:

1. SHARED PURPOSE

Culture clubs are usually created to extend a certain culture to those who are ardent to learn. There are actual students of that culture who are deprived of such traditional customs in their own households. Coming to these meetings might serve as a solution to such identity crises, and therefore, they might find race as a common reason to join a club. They might feel more at ease with others of the same color. Consequently, it is not the clubs who are promoting self-segregation, but the students themselves who choose to join a club that has bearing to the overall racial numbers of that club.

2. NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS

Club names can be misnomers, and can give off connotations that they are only intended for that one particular race. This, however, is false, because club leaders strive to utilize the club as an umbrella, in a manner of speaking, to teach about a specific culture. These teachings will drip down to people of other cultures, who in turn educate others in a cycle. Students of all colors are embraced.

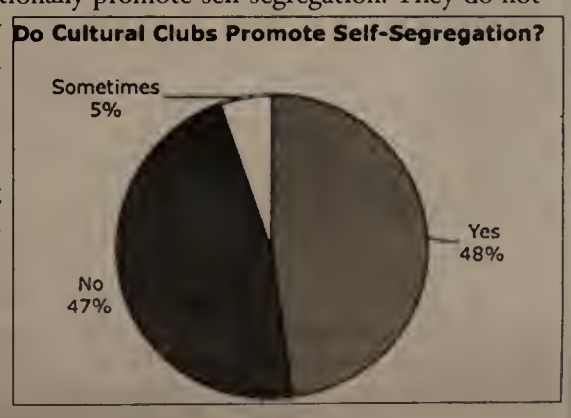
3. NATURAL FORCE

There's an unexplainable force that compels people of the same race in some way to desire to come together. They develop a communal bond that is incomparable to other personal bonds, and therefore, they gather whenever there are special events occurring in these cultural clubs. This is not to say that other relationships formed are not equally unique or important, but it is a force of nature that one cannot fully comprehend nor explain thoroughly.

4. DIVERSITY AMONG THE STUDENT BODY?

The lack of integration among the student body is seen in every corner of the school. From the hallway in the mornings to the dining hall during lunch, students of a common race tend to gather amongst themselves. Does this mean that we, students and club leaders alike, are promoting self-segregation? No. We just return to the same point where students might feel more comfortable with others of the same race. Similarly, this is the concept for culture clubs. Culture clubs are assemblies that invite students of all diverse backgrounds and races. These clubs and their leaders do not promote self-segregation.

It is up to the students themselves to take the initiative to explore other culture clubs. Students should not assume that these clubs are biased and only hospitable to a single race. Culture clubs do not intentionally promote self-segregation. They do not limit the number of people of a different race who can join. Rather, they promote awareness, giving students an outlet to explore global cultures.



Forum Question

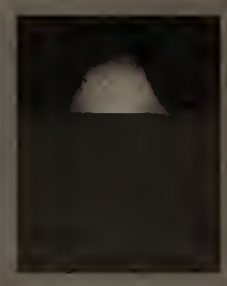
Do Cultural Clubs Promote Self-Segregation?



Yes, because ethnicity tends to be the basis for recruiting for most of the clubs.
-Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I



No, because I'm in the DESI Society which is about the Indian culture, but I'm Vietnamese.
-Trang Le, II



No, I don't believe they do because it is more of a way to preserve the culture and if other kids not of the culture want to join they can. That just spreads the culture.
-Kelly Raila, III



They are not supposed to but they do partially. They aren't technically segregated by rule, but some are.
-Jake Grahan-Felsen, IV



Yeah I do because you are divided and only get to meet people who have your own ideas. They don't help people to meet others with different cultures and ethnicities.
-Oliver Anderson, V



No, because there is nothing wrong with people from the same culture doing activities together.
-Andrew Gao, VI

Photos by Leah Skahen, II

Forum: Editorial Page

Editorials written by
Rebecca Adams, II
Frankline Ho, II
Anneke Schwob, III
Opinions are those of the Editorial Board

An Unfare Move

Over the summer, many students spend more than $100 on bus and train fare. Riding the bus and the Orange Line in the morning is bad enough, but added to that misery is the scrounging around for dimes and quarters to pay our fares. Students very much appreciate the buses and trains that get us where we need to be every day. It is the cost of taking these modes of transportation that bothers us.

Luckily, on the third day of school we were all rewarded with shiny new T-passes. It was also around this time that Governor Mitt Romney informed the public that he was supporting the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's plan to increase the fares on public transportation.

As Mitt Romney drives to work in the morning, what does he think about? Does he consider the millions of poor and middle class residents who don't have cars? Does he think about the people who pay $1.00 to ride a dirty, littered, graffitied train each morning and evening? Apparently not.

This fare increase is very similar to every other savings "plan" Mitt Romney has endorsed; it hits the people that earn the least. Boston Latin School students are lucky enough to get a T-pass given to us by the school. Although it is a pain to pay for the train on the weekends, the biggest hardship is borne not by students, but by the poor and middle class workers who don't receive T-passes from their employers. These people have no other choice but to take the bus and the train to work in the morning and home at night. They already pay a good percentage of their income to take public transportation. How can Mitt Romney support this fare increase, and in essence tax those who can least afford to pay? Wouldn't you like to know the last time he took the Orange Line to work or rode the 39 bus through Boston?

The increase in the transportation fares is no number to laugh at either. If this plan is finalized, the train fares will increase from $1 to $1.25, a 25 percent increase. The plan also calls for a raise in bus fares from 75 cents to $1, a 33 percent increase.

When the proposed fare hikes were announced, there was evidence of ridership actually *decreasing* by 3.2 percent. What a terrible time to increase fares! It will only discourage people from riding the T and hurt ridership, further lowering revenues.

Romney's endorsement of the plan to raise transportation fares is not only immoral, but until recently it was illegal as well. Until recently, state law prohibited increasing fares if ridership decreased by more than 4 percent in a given year. In August, this provision was deleted by the legislature without any notice, paving the way for the fare hikes currently under consideration.

Before Governor Romney implements a plan to hurt the citizens who pay for public transportation every day, he should produce a plan that would benefit them--a plan to clean up the trains and improve the waiting areas T-riders are forced to sit in while waiting for their train. Instead, Mitt Romney continues to hurt two classes of people over and over again: the middle and the lower classes. He says he is against tax increases. But what is a fare increase but a tax on those of us who must use subways and buses to get to work or school? It seems that Romney is really just against raising taxes on the rich.

So we leave you, Governor Romney, with this thought. If you're going to raise subway and bus fares, first improve the service and clean buses and trains up in order to attract more riders. If you need more money in the budget, raise taxes on those who can afford them. And finally, consider who exactly is getting hit with these fare increases--the many poor, middle class and under-21 citizens of this city. Consider the fact that many of the "kids" you have angered are 17- and 18-year-olds, soon-to-be voters. Think about who you expect to vote for you in the next election. The way things are going, you certainly won't have our vote.

Let Them Eat Cookies

It's second lunch and all of the lines for school lunch stretch to the back of the cafeteria. These eventually die down and shorten, but the snack lines still retain their previous length. Around 20 students at a time wait in line for ice cream sundaes, Gatorade, chocolate bars, cookies and chips. If you look at the lunch tables, almost everyone has some kind of junk food ready to eat. Now take away all of that junk food and replace it with fruits, vegetables and other healthy alternatives. Not a pretty thought, is it? Well, State Representative Peter J. Koutoujian thinks it is.

Koutoujian is the chief sponsor of House Bill 3519 (the Act to Promote School Nutrition), which, if made law, would prevent items high in sugar content from being sold in schools. Candy bars, cookies and caffeinated products would no longer be available during school hours. The stated purpose of this bill is to promote "healthy eating habits" in young people. The thinking is that, with junk food removed from schools, rates of obesity will go down. This campaign is supported by some big names such as the American Heart Association, Tufts New England Medical Center, the American Cancer Society, and many other reputed organizations. Almost no one has spoken out on the opposing side.

It's a nice idea in theory: Take away the candy, and people will lose weight. What illogical here is the idea that simply restricting junk food will improve the eating habits of students. This can be compared to the fact that every student has gone through numerous ineffective health courses and year after year has had the idea of three square meals a day driven into his brain; nevertheless, no significant improvement in student health has been achieved.

Most food is consumed outside of school where there is easier access to whatever item a person wants. Restricting the small variety of sugar-composed products would not make any significant impact. Studies show that portion sizes are actually more significant than ingredients when concerning nutrition. Eating a bag of chips for lunch won't make you fat — eating six bags will. The key issues here are self-control and personal responsibility. It is up to each individual student (and, in the case of younger students, their parents) to regulate food intake and prevent obesity. The school should not restrict the food choices of the entire student body because of the poor choices of some students — choices which the students have every right to make anyway. If a student is bent on eating to excess and does not care about obesity, nothing the school does will force him to eat healthily. School lunch contents are already heavily regulated and the nutritional contents of snacks are substantially small as a factor of obesity. The problem obviously stems from places other than schools, such as home and restaurants.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

In high school, most students don't eat a large breakfast containing the healthy foods that would give them the required energy to get through the day. However, foods high in sugar content do provide this energy in relatively small sizes that take little time to consume, a fact which explains their popularity. Removal of "unhealthy foods" from school wouldn't make any heavy impact on the health of students and would only leave students fatigued in the hours in which they need energy to learn. It's ridiculous that health advocates would try to attack a bad habit in school when they might be focusing their efforts on the source of the problem, the places where "unhealthy" foods can be acquired *en masse*.

Repersonalizing the Pledge

When you think of the United States, three fundamental symbols immediately come to mind: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the flag. These reflect the spirit of independence, the personal freedoms and the fierce patriotism that were so essential to the founding fathers and that continue to draw many people to America today. Yet as we enjoy more and more personal freedoms, patriotism tends to fall by the wayside. It is hard to rally around a flag when, to so many, the flag is just a piece of cloth with pretty colors and too many stars. In the security and comfort that is America, one tends to forget the all-consuming passion that the patriots felt towards this little scrap of cloth, a passion so great that they would have given their lives to make sure this flag, and everything it represented, still stood. Still, time passes, and eventually people forget.

In 1892, Francis Bellamy wished to evoke in the citizens of America a new pride in their flag, their country, and all for which it stood. His original Pledge, however, didn't read quite like the one loved by kindergarten teachers everywhere: "I pledge Allegiance to my Flag, and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." It was a simple affirmation of respect for the values upon which this country was founded, the values that we even now uphold: liberty and justice, for all. Who could possibly take issue with such a declaration?

By the mid-1950s, the Pledge had changed. The Pledge had taken on whole new levels of meaning – levels that many aren't comfortable with. In 1924 the Daughters of the Revolution (still wielding their righteous influence 150 years later) argued to have the words "my Flag" changed to "the flag of the United States of America." Despite Bellamy's objections, the change went through. The flag no longer represented an idea, but a government. Then, in 1954, the Knights of Columbus put their two cents in. The Pledge now read, "one nation, under God."

A national symbol can only reflect the spirit of our country if it has the ability to evolve over time. We were forced to reconsider the Declaration of Independence during the Civil War – to adapt our way of thinking until all people truly were created equal. The Constitution is constantly being revised, through amendments and the interpretation of the judicial branch. The Pledge, too, has evolved from its original form, but has it evolved with our country, or against it?

Much of the original Pledge of Allegiance has been lost in recent times,



BY STACY PHILLIPS, II

buried beneath a slew of debate and controversy. Its original patriotic message is overlooked as people concentrate instead on what the pledge has evolved to be: they concentrate on those two small words, added half a century after the original pledge was drafted - "Under God."

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled that mandating public school children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in classrooms is unconstitutional, due once again to those two seemingly insignificant words - "Under God." Yet in concentrating on this phrase, so irrelevant to the overall meaning of the pledge, we as a nation seem to have forgotten the pledge's original intent: to be a personal expression of patriotism. It is important that we as a nation remember our founding principles, and that, underneath the layers of politics, ideologies, and bureaucracies, we are indivisible. Pledging allegiance to the flag, and all that it implies, is no more unconstitutional then any other expression of patriotism or faith. In pledging, even if we are pledging to a God, we are exercising our First Amendment rights, the right to speak as we please, and to show our support for our country with any words that have meaning to us. If this means pledging to "one nation, under God," so be it. Conversely, if students cannot in good conscience stand to pledge to values they do not affirm, they should be allowed to exercise their right to sit.

It is essential that we show our support for our country in some way, no matter how much we may hate the policies of a current administration. Presidencies come and go, but liberty and justice have, for the most part, endured. If it is in standing, facing the flag, and reciting those words, written so long ago, that you salute our country and all it stands for, so be it. If not, let the Pledge evolve into something that holds individual meaning, whether it be spoken or not, a true Pledge of Allegiance – not only to our flag, but to our own interpretation of freedom, with or without a government, with or without a God.

Send in the Sporks!

Melissa Saunders

Recently I have noticed a demoralizing change in the dining hall at Boston Latin School, a change which is slowly impacting students whether they know it or not. Gradually it is building up an aura which seeps through the wedged stacks in the vending machine, making its way past the crowded lunch flocks, and infiltrating every social circle imaginable. To what am I referring? Nothing other than the discontinuation of sporks in the dining hall.

For as long as I can remember, sporks have been those dependable "in between utensils" in the "handy-dandy" plastic wrapping along with a napkin and a straw. From kindergarten through sixth grade, it seemed as if I could always rely on a spork to help me consume my lunch in a civilized manner with its spooning and its pronging. As the years passed, sporks began to play a more pivotal role in my life. They became more than just eating utensils to me—they were the standard manifestation of everything that was pure, true, and plastic in the world. A website entitled "sporks are Godlike—Since 1995" gives this view: "Very simply, sporks are an everything-in-one eating utensil that makes eating our favorite foods all the easier! Without a spork, we'd have to use up to *three* different utensils to eat a meal! Can you imagine?"

When my love of sporks became noticeable during my sixie year, I received much criticism and became subject to much consternation: I was even deemed as "weird." Countless classmates told me of less popular alternatives such as foons and the ever-ostracized spknives. I recall getting into a passionate disagreement with a certain classmate when I was told that "spknives are way better than sporks." I responded, "If you tried to eat Cream of Wheat with a spknife, you'd practically die and cut up the inside of your mouth in the process." I went on to explain how sporks even facilitate the eating of said Cream of Wheat. There were many arguments similar to this one, yet I stood my ground. with a fiery passion in my heart and a spork in my hand, I was not willing to yield to petty substitutes.

I am dismayed at the fact that sporks have become less accepted despite my renowned campaign for them. Beginning in seventh grade, I noticed a steady decrease in the number of sporks present in the dining hall. By May 2002, sporks had disappeared completely. This discontinuance is hurting



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Boston Latin School a great deal. By now, all students are aware of the budget cuts that have been taking place in various institutions in Massachusetts. This is precisely where the economic value and clever design of the spork come into play. Instead of the irrational concept of separate spoons and forks in the Dining Hall, welding these utensils together could save hundreds of dollars. Hundreds! Sporks also make things safer for us all — while spoons do not pose a great threat, the sharp prongs of forks can prove to be dangerous weapons. The ingenious design of the sporks prevents a situation in which a student could be faced with grave bodily harm —the utensil's spoon-like roundness makes it harder for its fork-like prongs to injure someone. In addition, sporks are the logical utensils for the food actually being served at lunch. Let's face it: we aren't exactly having fillet mignons every day. With tiny lettuce portions, malleable fruit cups, and even the unidentified substance commonly called "macaroni salad," sporks play a key role in facilitating students' consumption of their food.

I'm not sure how I can impart the urgency needed to bring back sporks to the dining hall at Boston Latin School. Their intriguing structure, the gleaming white plastic, and that "sorta-spoon-sorta-fork" configuration make the spork vital in school cafeterias everywhere. My only hope is that soon, the entire world will come to realize this fact. Until then, I deeply implore the Latin School community: Bring back the spork!

-Melissa Saunders is a member of class V

Beating the Bible Commonwealth

Isaac Meister

Sometimes it seems that everywhere one looks, our society is falling apart. Our politicians lie, our children steal, Americans continue to grow greedier and less healthy, and, worst of all, nobody seems to care. Those few who deem themselves "above" this sort of societal decay loudly proclaim "Morals! Where are our morals! Why doesn't anyone have any morals anymore?" People of this ilk also tend to advocate the promotion of our ethics in schools and other government institutions, as an Op/Ed appearing in Issue I of the *Argo* felt the need to underscore. This is, ironically, the laziest and most selfish attitude of all.

But why? Why should we not enshrine the ethics that our country holds so dear in the law books? The answer, simply, is that it is not the government's responsibility to tell its citizens how to think. The freedom we enjoy in an open society mandates that each of us use our citizenship wisely. To tell the government that it should shape its citizens directly as people – for it is one's sense of ethics that defines a person – is a horrible conflict of interest.

Laws, we must remember, are written by people, and people are inevitably biased and imperfect. The Congress now feels pressure – and this applies, perhaps even more so, to state legislatures – from dozens of political action committees (PACs) to create statutes that break the boundaries between church and state (take Mr. Bush's unconstitutional faith-based charity initiative that subsidizes discriminatory religious organizations, for instance) and impose the ethical beliefs of a few onto the lives of many. The individual liberty on which this country is based depends on a hands-off approach, a level of trust that its citizenry will do ethically upright things. If there is a decay of society caused by a lack of morals, only we as individuals can take the blame.

Let the armchair moralists complain, let them campaign, let them live by example, but *do not* let them legislate. We must not hide behind the government's back to live as upright citizens. We must not forfeit our responsibilities of self-determination to our government, for how, then, can we claim our rights? The lazy ones who choose to surrender their right to think for themselves will wake up in an intolerant, Puritanical and restrictive right-wing Judeo-Christian "bible commonwealth" as PACs force through laws on ethics. Problems of morals are caused by issues blacker than the ink of the politician's pen, and the onus is on us the people, not them the government, to correct them. No matter how violently our societal "moral compass" spins, as some tritely choose to put it, we and we alone are at fault.

-Isaac Meister is a member of class II

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In the last issue of the Argo, an Op/Ed on the Harvey Milk School was written explaining the fundamentals of the school. The Harvey Milk School is a school dedicated to the safety of gay and lesbian youth. The idea behind the school is to create a safe environment for students who are harassed verbally and physically in New York City public schools. But while this school may help during the years a student attends, it doesn't prepare him or her for the outside world. Being sheltered from harassment will hurt the student in the long run. Why? Because unfortunately, in this world, many people cannot accept the fact that some people are *different* from them and always will be, whether the difference is their skin color, religion, or sexual orientation. These are the people who will harass and hurt others who are different. When students are sheltered from this, they never learn how to confront it. When they hit the "real world" and are exposed to people of this sort, they won't know what to do. If New York City's public schools are having so much trouble with harassment, the answer is definitely *not* to take the harassed out of the school, because then the harassers will have won, and they will know this. This will give the harassers the illusion of power, power over the students that they have bullied, and they will just continue with their intolerant behavior. If the money spent on the Harvey Milk School is to be spent for the benefit of gay and lesbian youth, it should go towards educational programs for all students to be taught about tolerance and being open to youth with different beliefs, appearances, or thoughts.

-Queen Arsem-O'Malley, VI

To the Editor:

"Don't you have to be elected?" was the first thing that a sixie asked me when I suggested that he join Student Council at the Extracurricular Fair. Most students at Boston Latin School think that one has to be elected to join student council. This is not true.

Student Council did start off as an elected body. Two students were chosen from each homeroom, and were expected to go to Student Council, reporting back to their homeroom afterwards. They were to inform their homeroom about things that they found out from Student Council and bring up any issues their homeroom might have at student council meetings. This system, however, didn't work out well because representatives frequently failed to show up for Student Council. A few years ago, the system was changed, and student council is now open to all students.

Another question that I received at the extracurricular fair was, "What does Student Council do?" Older and younger students alike are confused about the purpose of Student Council. There are many students who believe that Student Council doesn't do anything at all.

This perception is completely inaccurate. Student Council sponsors various events in the school such as the Student-Faculty Basketball Game, the Battle of the Bands, and the Sixie Social. This year we are adding more to the list by doing an Angel Tree. When Christmas approaches, we are going to put up a Christmas tree with little paper angels on it. One can choose an angel and on the back it will say the gender and age of a child, for whom one would buy a Christmas present. Nice idea? We think so, too.

These are just some of the things that Student Council does for the school. Students at BLS moan and complain about problems that they have with the school. They feel that there is nothing they can do to improve the school, but there is, and joining Student Council is the first step. So come to Student Council and speak your mind! We meet every Thursday in room 121. See you there!

-Rozalia Kocjan, II

The Argo welcomes letters to the editor or Op-Eds. Any submissions can be given to Kathryn McDonald(120) or Erin Durkin(117) or emailed to kamcdonald@verizon.net and impennsada@aol.com

Sports

DCL Champs Once Again

By Sam Tsoi, I
Contributing Writer

After winning the Dual County League title for the past two years, the girls' volleyball team has done it again. Talk about the team's inexperience has hushed as the ladies fought their way to another victory in the DCL. Thanks to Coach Kai Yuen and team captains Anna George (I) and Karen Chui (I), this relatively "new" squad has become a powerful force. As practice starts at 3:30 p.m. and ends around 6 p.m., it can be lengthy and challenging, but with more time comes more skill.

On Friday, October 24th the Boston Latin School Wolfpack played the Newton South Lions for the number one spot in the DCL. As Newton South walked into the gym, everybody felt a sense of nervousness and anxiety as game time was drawing near. Would we prevail and win the title?" As more and more people filled the Latin School gym, the excitement in the air was building up.

Finally, at game time, Latin School started out strong, with great serving from the starters. The Lions, however, were able to receive the serves and proceeded to execute plays from their coach. Both teams



BY DEBBIE WONG, II

were well organized with great passing and hitting. The Lions were good passers, but their back row was no match for Boston Latin School. The Wolfpack had a strong front row with setter Karen Chui (I) and players Anna George (I), Helen Wu (III), Amy Yeh (III), Nancy Wong (I), Kat Nivorozhina (I), Susan Ma (I) and Martha Nalysnyk (I). The back row of the Latin School also played well, with Debbie Wong (II) as the defensive specialist, Wendy Lam (I), Jessica Fong (I) and Anne Wu (I). As the game went on, Boston Latin School won the first set, but lost the second set. The crowd in the gym was filled with anxiety, wondering who would win the final set and win the DCL championship. The Boston Latin School varsity football team was also there, cheering and providing a big support for the ladies. With the third set starting, both teams were determined to give it their best; this intensity resonated in the stands. The set consisted of long rallies and superb serving from both sides, but with consistent hitting from the BLS front row, they were able to rise up above the Lions. When the score was 29 to 22, the gym fell silent, waiting for Anna George (I) to serve the final ball. The star hitter of the Lions got into position to receive the ball, but once the ball came into contact with her arms, she shanked it. Everyone in the gym exploded with cheering and incessant clapping. The scoreboard read: 30 – 22. The Latin School had won and claimed the DCL title once again!

After the end of the regular season, Anna George was named league Most Valuable Player and First Team All-Star along with Karen Chui (I), Susan Ma (I) and Aubrie Pagano (I). Cory Savereid (I) was named Second Team All-Star. Latin School placed 6th place in the playoffs. The only "down" part of this year, is that thirteen seniors will leave for college. The only varsity members to return will be Helen Wu (III), Amy Yeh (III), Debbie Wong (II) and Sarah Nguyen (II). Talk will undoubtedly rise again. With such an experience, how far can they really go? If this year has taught us anything, it is to never underestimate girls' volleyball at Latin School.

For more in depth coverage on the girls' volleyball season, check out our website at http://www.blsargo.org for a supplimental article on the playoffs.

Golf: Triumphant and Up to Par!

By Jin Bin Liu, II &
Patrick Wu, II
Staff Writers

When looking for triumph in Boston Latin School sports, one would not be inclined to dwell on the golf team. It is no secret: the BLS Golf team went winless for nearly four years. Many would have just given up on the team. Well folks, the tide is turning, the winds have changed direction, and—no, those aren't pigs flying—the Golf team has finally won their first game, driving past Weston, 68-58! Yes indeed, October 9, 2003 will be a day to remember.

Coach Myers calls this victory the turning point of the season. Two games later, still rejuvenated by their success, the team managed to score 82 points, a season high, in a disappointing loss to Westford, the number 1 seed in the Dual County League. Myers was effusive in his praise of the team's last performance. "I think we did very well in that game. Imagine if we had a season average of 82 points. We would've won so many more games." The spirit of the Golf Team cannot be described at all by their 1-15 record. Some may say too little, too late; but this new attitude can only mean good things for next year's team.

Wolfpack Standings

Team	W	L	T
Girls' Volleyball	16	5	0
Girls' Swimming	9	7	0
Boys' Soccer	0	18	0
Girls' Soccer	3	15	2
Girls' Cross-Country	2	6	0
Boys' Cross-Country	0	8	0
Football	4	5	0
Golf	1	11	0

The Golf Team got off to a slow start; their road was not easy at all. After losing their first few games, they began to lose hope. It was only when the team began to respond to the coaching that they began to perform better. The changes adopted by the team helped them end their season on a high note. Coach Myers explained the different approach his team took during the latter part of the season: "I told the team to start using different clubs [in different situations] and to play against the course, not the other team. If you can beat the course better than the other team, you beat that other team!"

Golf is a very difficult sport. Not only does a golfer have to be physically fit, he must also be mentally prepared. "Mentality is the most important part of golfing. If your mind is not ready, you just can't play good golf," elaborated Coach Myers.

The results of this new approach spoke for themselves in the victory against Weston. Captain Zach Robbins (I) and teammate Matt Stone (III) registered 12 points each to lead the team to their only win of the season.

With a stellar conclusion to this season, Coach Myers anticipates a great performance next fall. With a higher level of efficiency and many returning members, the golf team can expect nothing but success in its future.

There's Always Room for Coleman

By Courtney Ferguson, II
Staff Writer

As part of the *Pons Privatus* campaign, Coach David Coleman was given one of the most distinguished signs of gratification a teacher can receive: a classroom dedicated in his name. Most students quickly scurry past these plaques mounted high above the classroom doors (or in this case, next to one) without giving them any thought. This, however, is one worth admiration, considering Mr. Coleman's service to the school community. It was one marked by excellent guidance and experienced coaching.

On a chilly Friday evening in October, with the smell of autumn in the air, alumni young and old assembled at a newly-polished Boston Latin School. Hurrying down hallways to keep up with the "parade" of the dedications of classrooms, the alumni felt like students once again. As they reached room 125, Mr. Coleman, looking very refined in his black suit, prepared himself to "do the honors" and cut the purple ribbon—a glamorous ending to an equally dazzling career.

The classroom itself was donated by John Doyle '74, whom Mr. Coleman remembers as "a team player, goal scorer and a sportsman." Humble even in success, Doyle always gave his teammates the credit they deserved. A superb leader, Doyle led the 1974 boys' hockey team to be the first to qualify for the state tournament, coached by no one other than Coleman himself. Doyle never has forgotten his educational roots as an alumnus of Boston Latin School and Middlebury College, contributing considerable sums of his financial success to their continuance as learning institutions.

Coach Coleman has been a major influence not only on the life of John Doyle but on the lives of students today. He is the coach of two competitive and esteemed sports teams, those of hockey and of baseball. He teaches his players to strive for victory while emphasizing the importance of hard work, dedication, and love for the game. The first coach to be inducted into the Hockey and Baseball Halls of Fame in the same year, Coleman has impacted every athlete he has come across over the span of the thirty-six years of his service. Mr. Coleman, I have learned, is a very pleasant, humble man. He is thankful for the opportunities that this school has given him—his



BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, II

very first year he had the chance to coach two sports teams. Moreover, as one of the few remaining teachers who has seen the effects of transitioning from an all-male to a coeducational student body, Mr. Coleman feels that "the change has been most rewarding. Boston Latin School has grown to be a powerful girls' athletics school while remaining a strong academically." Glowing with pride, he himself even said, "I have enjoyed all the kids that I have taught and coached here." His legacy will not be forgotten, but not only because of the plaque. He will remain "Coach" to many because, by communicating that there is more to life than scoring goals, he has touched the lives of countless athletes.

BLS Splash Partay!

By Huong Nguyen, I
Contributing Writer

There was immense cheering during the swim meet for our BLS girls; it did not come from the crowd, however, but from the girls themselves. October 30 marked the end of the season for the Girls Swim Team, and although our Wolfpack girls lost their last meet to Acton-Boxborough, it in no way takes away from their successful season.

The team finished off with a more-than-respectable record of 9-7, numbers which do not even begin to describe their many achievements this year. In addition, a great number of the swimmers have qualified and are heading off to compete in the rigorous sectionals. The list includes co-captains Sharon Silverman (I) and Kassie Skipper (I), Lani Skipper (III), Sarah Silverman (IV), and Erin Sullivan (II), Rosie Malsbereger (II). This, however, does not overshadow other talents that the team has in divers Kathleen Harrington (I), Katie Dooley (I), and Melissa Gilmore (II), having improved tremendously during the season and having been indispensable assets to the team.

The girls' swim team is nothing if not dedicated. They practice at the Murphy School, which is 30 minutes to an hour's ride away from Boston Latin, until 5:00 p.m. each day. The meets usually start at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. and are usually 3 hours long, making late night home arrivals the norm. Although not every member is selected for each of the meets, they never fail to show up to cheer for their teammates, displaying true teamwork. These are girls who rally until the very last person finishes her laps and emerges from the pool. One look at this team will reveal that they remain united in the truest sense of the word. Their hard work, skill, and determination can be attributed to Coach Bruce Connolly, who has been coaching the team for 25 years, and Assistant Coach Anna Dockery, a BLS alumna.

The end of the season also marks the end of many meets for departing seniors Katherine Pittore, Kassie Skipper, Brittany Colleran, Katie Dooley, Katie Donahue, Sharon Silverman, Elyse Hanson, and Jill Gordon. When asked about their departure, fellow teammate Rebecca Phu (III) replies, "I will miss them greatly. They're good swimmers, and they helped the team out a lot." Although there absence next year will leave a hole in the team, it will not hinder their rising prospects. There are many more gifted swimmers sure to succeed at future meets.

The Girls Swim Team stands out from other teams at BLS. They are a focused bunch, willing to work and practice everyday to improve. The 2003 season, was characterized by an amazing start: the girls went undefeated until their sixth meet. Even more impressive however, was the finish. The girls did not once run out of steam, cheering each other on to the end.

Pro Sports

Cursed?

Andrew Rabkin, I
Staff Writer

The year 2003 was another disappointing one for Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs fans alike. Every October fans get their hopes up, thinking "this is the year," yet there is nothing to show for it. For years, the disappointments of these ill-fated franchises have been blamed on curses, the "Curse of the Bambino" for the Red Sox and the "Curse of the Billy Goat" for the Cubs. While many do not believe in these so-called "curses," they cannot help but wonder about the similarities between these teams.



FROM HTTP://WWW.PISCESPOSTERS.COM

Legend has it that the "Billy Goat Curse" originated when a Cubs fan wanted to bring his Billy goat into Wrigley Field during a 1945 World Series game against Detroit, but was refused permission to do so. He cursed the Cubs, who lost that series four games to three; they haven't even come close until 2003. As for the "Curse of the Bambino," the legend goes that Babe Ruth cursed the Red Sox after he was sold to the New York Yankees following Boston's World Series title in 1918. Since then, the Yankees have won 26 World Series championships while the Red Sox and Cubs have combined for zero titles. The Boston Red Sox have not won the World Series since 1918 and have not appeared in the World Series since 1986, when Bill Buckner let a routine ground ball go through his legs, costing the Sox the Series. The drought has been even longer for the Cubs, who have not won a World Series since 1908 and have not made a trip to the World Series since 1945.

For years, the disappointments of these ill-fated franchises have been blamed on curses.

This year, it looked like the Sox would have the World Series everyone wanted, a showdown between Boston and Chicago to finally reverse the curses of these storied franchises. With one out in the eighth inning of Game Six with Chicago up 3-2 in the best-of-seven series, the Cubs had a three-run lead with their ace Mark Prior on the mound. Then a Cubs fan snatched a playable foul ball from Chicago right-fielder Moises Alou, which would have been the second out of the inning and would have almost sealed the deal for the Cubs. The Florida Marlins stormed back with eight runs, winning the game 8-3 and the series 4-3. The Red Sox were in virtually the same situation this year. After a dramatic win in Game Six, the Red Sox forced a game seven against their archrival New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium. In this historic Game Seven, the Red Sox were up 5-2 in the eighth inning, needing only five outs to advance to the World Series, just like the Cubs on the night before. However, in a questionable move, Red Sox manager Grady Little kept Pedro Martinez in the game, and the ghost appeared again. The Yankees tied the game and went on to win it in the 11th inning after a homerun by Aaron Boone. Coincidence?

Is there a parallel between the frustration and heartbreak experienced each year by fans and players in Boston and Chicago? Perhaps there is no such thing as a curse. Who knows? But the great thing about baseball, especially for Sox and Cubs fans, is that "there is always next year."

Big Bad Bruins

By Edward Chiu, II
Assistant A&E Editor

If it were still the 1970s, which Boston sports team would everyone be talking about? The Red Sox? No. The Patriots? No way. The Celtics? Not quite. Those teams had sporadic winning seasons during that recessive decade. Which team were Bostonians following during that decade? The Boston Bruins? That can't be true. But surprisingly enough, for many young Boston sports fans of the time, that was *the* team in Boston.



FROM HTTP://CA.SPORTS.YAHOO.COM/

But those were Bruins that belonged to Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito and Johnny Bucyk. They were known as the "Big, Bad Bruins." Finishing first in the Eastern Division seven times, they made the playoffs every year, and a Stanley Cup in the 1971-1972 season. Why is it that the Bruins these days are no longer Boston's team? Simple: horrendous ownership, mediocre play and the waning popularity of hockey.

In the past couple of years, the Bruins have been decent... for a change. Two seasons ago, the Bruins finished at the top of the Eastern Conference, finishing the season with 101 points. All they mustered in the playoffs was a first round elimination. Last season came another first round elimination, as the team lost to the eventual Stanley Cup champions, the New Jersey Devils. The owners then fired the coach with a quarter of the season remaining.

This off-season, the Bruins made no big splashes. They did not address their biggest concern—goaltending. The loudest buzz this off-season was about the pending free agents Sergei Samsonov and Joe Thornton. They have proven themselves in the past few seasons as *bona fide* forwards. They will definitely seek the top dollar once they become free agents, and logic dictates that the Bruins will under no circumstances dish out the money to put a talented team on the ice. Early in September general manager Mike O'Connell did address the goal-tending situation, signing Felix Potvin to a one-year deal.

Who even noticed? Rather, the question should be: Who cared?

The Bruins opened this season with another new head coach, Mike Sullivan, the third in four seasons. They have found rising stars in Patrice Bergeron, Bruins second round pick in last year's draft, and Sergei Zinovjev, the team's third round pick in the 2000 draft. It is about time that the Bruins produced good young talent. Since the team drafted Ray Bourque in 1979, there have only been two star players to be home grown—Sergei Samsonov and Joe Thornton. Year after year, their drafts have been busts. This certainly shows how well Harry Sinden and Mike O'Connell have run the team the past three decades. When they do have good talent, they let them go. Take, for example, Jason Allison, Anson Carter, Guerin and Dafoe. Thank you, Jeremy Jacobs, for being cheap. Late in august, Jacobs commented, "it's not a payroll-driven issue, it's a management issue, we'll see how good my management is." History shows that management has not been good. Any wonder why the Bruins aren't able sell out the Fleet Center, even for playoff games?

But does anyone expect these Bruins to be the Big, Bad Bruins of the '70s? They have collapsed in the past two seasons, and this team does not have the talent and veteran leadership to bring them to the next level. With declining interest of the sport throughout the nation, the best thing for hockey in Boston would be for Bob Kraft, John Henry, Tom Werner and Wyc Grousbeck to buy the team. How about it? Maybe then the Big, Bad Bruins will come back from hibernation.

Spotlight
Katherine Walsh



BY FINELIGHT

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

Katherine Walsh is a self-proclaimed sports fanatic. Whether she is shooting hoops at parties or being recruited by golf coaches while she is goofing around and driving golf balls with friends, she brings her natural ability and knack for sports everywhere she goes. Walsh is one of the few three-season female athletes in the class of 2004. Her athleticism, dedication and motivation have made her a constant fixture on the Boston Latin School sports scene.

Katherine started playing Parkway Youth Soccer at a very young age in West Roxbury. Her booming kick, endurance and physical presence made her a natural defenseman. When Katherine was in the 8th grade at Latin she joined the girls' soccer team and has been playing ever since. In the 10th grade she made varsity and was named Most Improved Player. By the 11th grade she was named a Dual County League Second Team All-Star, an honor that she also received this year as a team captain. Katherine called this past season the best she has had on a sports team at BLS. The Latin girls won the DCL Sportsmanship Award, showing the girls from the 'burbs that they, too, have class. Katherine's soccer experience is not limited simply to Latin; she also lends her skill, leadership and fierce kick to the Parkway BAYS travel team, of which she is one of the captains. K-Wal hopes to play intramural soccer in college.

K-Wal can shoot. She has brought her talent to the basketball court since the 8th grade. A JV captain in the 10th grade and a member of varsity by 11th, Katherine's presence is felt both on and off the court. She has the natural ability to get to the ball. Walsh is also a solid rebounder who is not afraid to hit the floor.

Perhaps the most telling of K-Wal's athleticism is the story about how she came to join the BLS girls' tennis team. She simply had nothing to do the day of tryouts, borrowed her friend's racket and went to the tryouts. Needless to say, she made the team. Walsh played on JV for several years, and in the 9th and 10th grades she was a JV captain. Last year, she changed during the season to varsity and this year she will be a captain. Katherine enjoys playing doubles with Emma Hallas-O'Connor (II). The two have a good dynamic.

Playing three sports is a huge time commitment, that requires a great deal of family support. Of the many games Katherine has played over the years, her father, one of her role models, has missed only three. This unwavering support has helped Katherine stay motivated.

Besides being an extremely well-versed athlete, Katherine Walsh excels in school. She is a member of the National Honors Society. Her favorite class at BLS is Biology, for which she won a National Merit Scholarship.

Besides being an athlete, a student and even a singer, Katherine is above all else a wonderful person and a great friend. She has been known to bust out in the "monkey run" simply to illicit laughs or cheer people up. Everyone knows her as a friendly, exuberant, talkative person who will go out of her way to offer a helping hand. It is this quality that sets Katherine Walsh apart.

Sports

Give Me An R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

By Caroline Sullivan, II
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, cheerleading is not just cheering at football games. It involves hard work, daily practice and competition. It is rightfully a varsity sport.

This year's squad is ready to take on the task. Led by coach Kristin O'Connor and senior captains Cindy Legagneur, Elizabeth Rouse and Halle Melcher, the girls are ready to give it their all.

Although someone watching the cheerleaders perform at halftime wouldn't know it, the team this year is relatively new: having lost 10 girls from last year and beginning the season with no coach, it virtually had to begin from scratch. In order to prepare for this season, the girls spent part of their summer vacation at UCA camp at Mt. Ida College. In addition to the hard work put in over the summer, the girls have recently upped their practice time from three days a week to five, and often have weekend practices. With two competitions coming up, the Wolfpack wants to be at its best.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

For the first time, the cheerleaders will be competing in the Dual County League Competition, pitting themselves up against some tough squads from across the state. Another upcoming event is the Battle of the Cheerleaders, a Boston Public Schools competition, in which the girls took 4th place last year, despite putting on an excellent performance. This year, the girls hope to improve their rank and beat out the tough Latin Academy squad.

Although the team is experiencing some growing pains during this rebuilding season, they are just as strong as ever. "Cheerleaders are underappreciated. We are treated as second class citizens when we work just as hard as other varsity sports," says one of the team captains. At football games, they keep the crowd involved with their cheers and stunts. At competitions, they will amaze the judges with their routines and prove that hard work and determination really do pay off.

Of War and Cleats

By Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I
Contributing Writer

The sky was clear and the wind was brisk at Concord-Carlisle as the Boston Latin School boys' soccer team crested the hill dividing the parking lot from that fateful stretch of grass, where their resolve and skill would be put to the test. A motley crew of individuals with a wide range of abilities, senses of humor, and tastes, it was nevertheless a group that exuded a sense of unity and purpose. All of the players knew that the success or failure of every game to come would solely be decided by how well they worked together as a group, how cohesive they could be on the attack and safeguarding their own goal.

Administration to this end is in the hands of varsity and junior varsity coaches Aaron Osowiecki and Charles Aversa. They determine the battle strategies, decide who is most effective in which position, and train their charges in between games to hone their skills.

To aid them in this task, the three most authoritative and skilled players have been hand-picked from the team as captains. Reflecting the defensive nature of games in the past years, this year's crop of captains is not only the backbone of the team, but also the final line of defense against opposing teams. Andrew Leone (I), Kevin Bernazzani (I) and Ben Drabkin (I), the goalie and defensemen respectively, work hard to keep the opponent's score low enough to give the forwards and midfielders a chance to seize the initiative and turn the tide when the opportunity arises.



BY SECRET SPORTS GUY

In preparation for the game, Coach Osowiecki summoned the team and explained his battle plan for the day, a containment doctrine of sorts, with a focus on defense with the intent of stopping all advances between the midfielders and defenders. Stepping up to the task were midfielders and defenders Peter Bass (II), Brian Pastore (I), Hewson Pang (I), Alex Bisaga (I) and Michael Jaradeh (I). On the offensive were placed Darian Ghorbi (I), Elias Kopsiaftis (I), Mikhail Alert (I), Noah McKenna (I), Billy Doogan (II) and Shaun Price (I).

During the game the battle plan was carried out with reasonable success, the main issues being the chaotic periods in which the team unbalanced itself by over committing people to one area on the field, and in the scarcity of viable drives towards the Concord goal during the first half. Unfortunately the defenders were hard-pressed through the majority of the game and, with the lack of a backup goalie, exhaustion began to take its toll on the team. Later commenting on the game, Andrew Leone pointed out that, despite what their record might be, "The score doesn't sum our play," and expressed his satisfaction with the team's improvement.

Those words were spoken on Friday, September 12th—in the second week of the regular season. Since then the team has obtained a 0-18 record, a sobering statistic for an otherwise fun-filled season. Yet Leone's words still ring true: the drive of the boys' soccer team cannot be measured in numbers. Their legacy lies not in their standings, but in their support of each other and in their unwavering resilience.

And Then There Were Five

By St. John Barned-Smith, I
Assistant Sports Editor

And then there were five...

Not every team at BLS has so many qualified players that it has to have five captains. Nadine Deery, Amanda Kessler, Mariana Sarango, Katie Barnes, Katherine Walsh led the team. Each captain has been on the team for a long time, and many have faced injuries multiple times on their journey. Nadine Deery and Amanda Kessler both had the honor of being laid up on crutches again, much to the team's (and my) dismay, and the team lost several other valued athletes to scads of injuries.

Unfortunately for the girls, their hard work has not shown the drive, or success of the team. Practice was held every day at Millennium Park, (unless there was a game) which though far away, had a lot of advantages to their previous field. For example, there is actually vegetation at Millennium...

Soccer practice is not for the faint of heart. Many of my readers know my own bias towards swimming, but soccer is another of those very tough sports. It runs from 3:30-5:30, and many members on the team don't get home until 7 o'clock. The games were the times when the girls found out what they needed to improve on, and then would spend the next day practicing endlessly to hone their game and make sure that the next game would not have the same mistakes made.

Players have quite a bit of praise for the coaches, who they said were, in the case of the JV team, inexperienced and clueless, but who learned quickly, and still did a good job; for the Varsity squad, the coach was experienced and a bit older. Despite the contrast between the coaches, many members said they did a very good job in making the girls work, getting things done, and making sure that everyone had fun.

The girls' record this year was not fantastic. Despite this, they are an extremely talented bunch and could probably destroy you in a soccer game or almost any other physical challenge. They worked hard, they played hard, and they came out in the end with a respectable finish; no one can claim that they didn't put their best effort into every game, that they didn't give it their best shot every time. Their season had some impressive highlights, such as two victories over Latin Academy, and a tie to Weston—a very respected team.

Girls' Soccer is filled with some of the most driven and compelling athletes I have ever known. While their season this year is over, next year's team is eager and waiting to pick up the reins. My advice to you last issue would have been to go see some of their games. However, their time has run out. Should you see some of these girls cruising down a hallway, take a second out of your day to talk to them and congratulate them on their season.

Respect? How 'bout Recognition!

By Catherine Foley, II
Staff Writer

What is a letter anyway? Why is it so special? For those who have received the large purple 'L,' you know that it is truly an honor because you know that all of your hard work in schoolwork and in athletics has paid off. However, one especially gifted group goes unmentioned every year. They are an amazing team known throughout the school.

Every year at the pep rally, the students, alumni, teachers and everyone else in between crowd into our upper gym to watch the football team, the cheerleaders and... STEP SQUAD prepare to "bomb the blue." Every year at the sports banquet, however, Step Squad is nowhere to be seen. Whether it is considered a legitimate sport or not, this talented group works in sync with the cheerleaders to support the football team. Why has it not been recognized?

Every spring, a competitive three-day tryout is held for spots in the popular "club." Although any individual can technically "step," critical analysis of each stepper is considered. The Step Squad requires coordination, dedication, technique, attitude and rhythm. Most noteworthy is the time commitment of each member: practices after school can tally up to about three to four times per week, especially when competitions are near.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Yes, Step Squad does compete. They are in the senior division of the Greater Boston Step Association and challenge squads from other high schools and some colleges. During the past four years, they haven't ranked below second place! An extraordinary amount of teamwork is a key factor in their success.

Since Step Squad has shown consistent support for Boston Latin, it is time for Boston Latin to return the favor. They deserve more than a "Wow, that's awesome!" Hopefully this June, members of the Step Squad will be among the football team and the cheerleaders when the purple L's are given out and receive the official recognition they deserve.

STEP SQUAD
SPORT OR NOT A SPORT

"No, Step Squad is not a sport. It's more of a skill than anything else. You don't have to work out for it."
— Brian Nowak, I

"I could go both ways on this issue. It is a sport in the sense that it is organized, you have practices, team competitions and team spirit. However, it is not in the sense that you are just drumming on yourself."
— David Toro, II

"If cheerleading is a sport, then Step Squad is most definitely a sport."
— Nafkote Tamirat, I

"The Step Squad is so much better than the cheerleaders. The cheerleaders should give their varsity letters to the Step Squad. I can't wait for the pep rally when the much-more-talented Step Squad outdoes the cheerleaders once again."
— Paul Collins, I

"Definitely not a sport! It's an activity just like dancing."
— Marvin Ciné, I

"Oh gosh. I consider Step Squad as a mixture of Show Choir and Cheerleading. I consider it a form of theater art."
— Ke Zhang, III

"I don't consider the people in Stomp athletes, so in my eyes, Step Squad is not a sport."
— Ferdinand Percentie, II

Kerry's Kolumn: Q&A

By Kerry Sullivan, I
Sports Columnist



BY JAMES ZHANG, I

You came back for more, eh? Just couldn't stay away? Well, hold on tight because I'm switching the style up this issue...

Q: Who were the girls wearing silver fishnets a couple of weeks ago? Why were they wearing such crazy clothes?

-Fishy Fishnets

A: Those girls are the senior members of the girls' swim team. They wore those awesome outfits for their senior swim meet, which they ended up winning. I'm not sure when the tradition started, but sweatpants, flip-flops, ribbons and creativity have long been a part of the swim team's hobbies outside of the pool. If you want some real swimming entertainment, you should go to the state meet to watch all of the Latin ladies who qualified to compete.

Q: I want to join the track team, but I've heard some disconcerting rumors. What do you think I should do, Kerry?

-Confused about Running

A: Well, first off, rumors can be deceiving. Second (and here comes one of Kerry's life lessons) don't be afraid to try everything at least once. Maybe you should give the track team a shot. The system this year is going to be different from what it has been in the past. Ms. Pritchard is the new head coach after years of experience as an assistant coach. There are also two new coaches who have joined track's coaching staff. Melissa Cohen will begin coaching the distance runners this December and there will also be a new coach for sprinters. Mr. McCollum has returned to coach the jumpers and throwers. He is considered one of the best jumping coaches in Massachusetts. Watch the bulletin for the information on the Track and Field sign-up meeting.

Q: Is there a wrestling team for girls, or are boys the only ones allowed to wrestle?

-Ready to Roll

A: Thanks to Title IX, girls are allowed the right to wrestle alongside the boys. Clearly, wrestling is more popular among boys, but girls are not forbidden from this ancient style of battle. While I've been at this school, there have been several female wrestlers. If you're seriously considering this sport, you should speak to Jeff Gibbons, the wrestling coach, who also runs the weight room Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school, or Captain Brian Nowak (I).

Q: I'm a senior who's starting to get nostalgic. I want to see at least one home game for as many sports as I can this year. Can you tell me where the winter teams play?

-Wants to Watch

A: I will do my best to tell you most of them. Basketball home games for the boys' and girls' teams, as well as wrestling matches, are at school in the upper gym. The boys' swim team meets at the Murphy Pool. The track team runs in meets at the Reggie Lewis Center across from the Roxbury Crossing train station. Girls' hockey co-captain Katie Baliconis (II) informed me that girls' hockey plays its home games at Northeastern (along with the boys, who also play at BU). Always feel free to nag Coach McDonough in person about game dates and locations. Better yet, check out the school website or the hidden gem that is the BLS Sports Hotline: (617)-635-8895, ext. 257 (BLS).

Q: Are you going to do this again next issue? This question and answer thing may be informative, but it's pretty boring. When are you going to get back to actual journalism?

-Bored and Annoyed

A: Well, you'll be happy to know that this kolumn was an experiment. Unless I get positive feedback, there will never be another one like it. Next issue, as long as Oscar gives me my kolumn, I'll return to "actual journalism".

Spotlight
Andrew Leone



BY FINELIGHT

By Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I
Contributing Writer

Coach Osowiecki said, "Let there be Leone!" And so he was. And he was good.

Blessed with an uncanny ability to jump in front of fast-moving objects and to kick things, Andrew's career as goalie for the soccer team got off to a quick start as his soccer ball interdiction skills netted him one of the captain positions early on in his career. On the field he often shouts out suggestions or warnings to his teammates when forced on the defensive, doing his best to coordinate things. Asked what he liked best about the team, Leone quoted Mr. Osowiecki in saying, "I admired this team's sense of humor."

Andrew also plays as a goalie for a Jamaica Plain Bays League team during the spring not only to maintain his edge between seasons, but also for a chance to play against and alongside people in a different atmosphere.

Andrew easily befriends just about everyone he comes across and is pretty much always the center of attention at most social events. Having participated alongside him in sports for three years, I can easily say that Leone is one of the most hilarious people I have met in school and is one who will never say "ni" to old ladies.

Always the consummate scholar-athlete, Andrew is also a member of the National Honor Society and takes several AP classes. He has high aspirations for the future, hoping to focus on aeronautical engineering and possibly joining the naval ROTC. He is also vice president of the Italian Club and devotes much of his spare time to volunteering at the Boston Latin School Bookstore and at alumni reunions.

Soccer, however, is by no means Leone's only specialty. Once the season changed, he joined the track team, where his initiative and charisma helped him to become captain yet again. Easily one of the fastest people on the team, he leads by example and with an unending supply of jokes. He alternates between the two depending on which would get a better response from his comrades, though he usually just ends up trading one-liners and impressions with yours truly.

Eager to begin track once the soccer season ended, Andrew sat down with this reporter to discuss his thoughts, ideas and hopes for the coming season. He couldn't help but step-up the recruitment effort, trying to get more publicity for the team: "If you bothered reading this article, sign up for the track team on November 13th in the cafeteria after school!"

He is looking forward to starting this season under the new administration of Coach Pritchard and expects that she will galvanize the team enough to get some victories this year. Above all else, he says that there is one thing he can't wait for in the coming season. When asked what he was talking about, Andrew replied: "Talkin' 'bout acceleration."

That's Andrew for you. With him, it's never a case of nice guys finish last.

Fun Page

Horoscopes
Hurtling Blindly Into the Future

By Isaac Meister, II & Ariane Williams, I
Head Copy Editor and Assistant News Editor

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your discovery next week that your life-long struggles with insomnia and an inferiority complex were caused by the inexplicable three-day loss of your keys under the couch at age 10 will savor of anticlimax.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The stars wanted to tell you your future for the next week, but decided that after Wednesday it would be better to contact your next-of-kin.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): Although you are fated to be killed by a falling streetlamp in the year 2032, it is imperative that you not be allowed to breed in the intervening time. An accident involving live lobsters should take care of this problem shortly.

Cancer (June 21- July 22): Only a virgin sacrifice will save you now. Try a Libra.

Leo (July 23- August 22): Your existence is slowly but inexorably drawing the human race toward its ultimate downfall.

Virgo (August 23- September 22): They say you have acute obsessive-compulsive disorder, but what do they know? The cracked, bleeding fingernails are just a coincidence. That's right, it's all a big coincidence.

Libra (September 23- Oct 22): The new deodorant isn't working.

Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 21): You will find yourself feeling great, and your newfound confidence will open doors for you at work. Your love life is on the upswing too; expect new developments in an old friendship. Remember that you are in control of your life— and whatever you do, don't trust the squirrels.

Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21): That little problem? The one you thought had gone away? It's back. And it's contagious.

Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19): Avoid green Volvos. Green Volvos are not good for you.

Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18): It will soon become clear that you've been hanging out with a Sagittarius a bit too much.

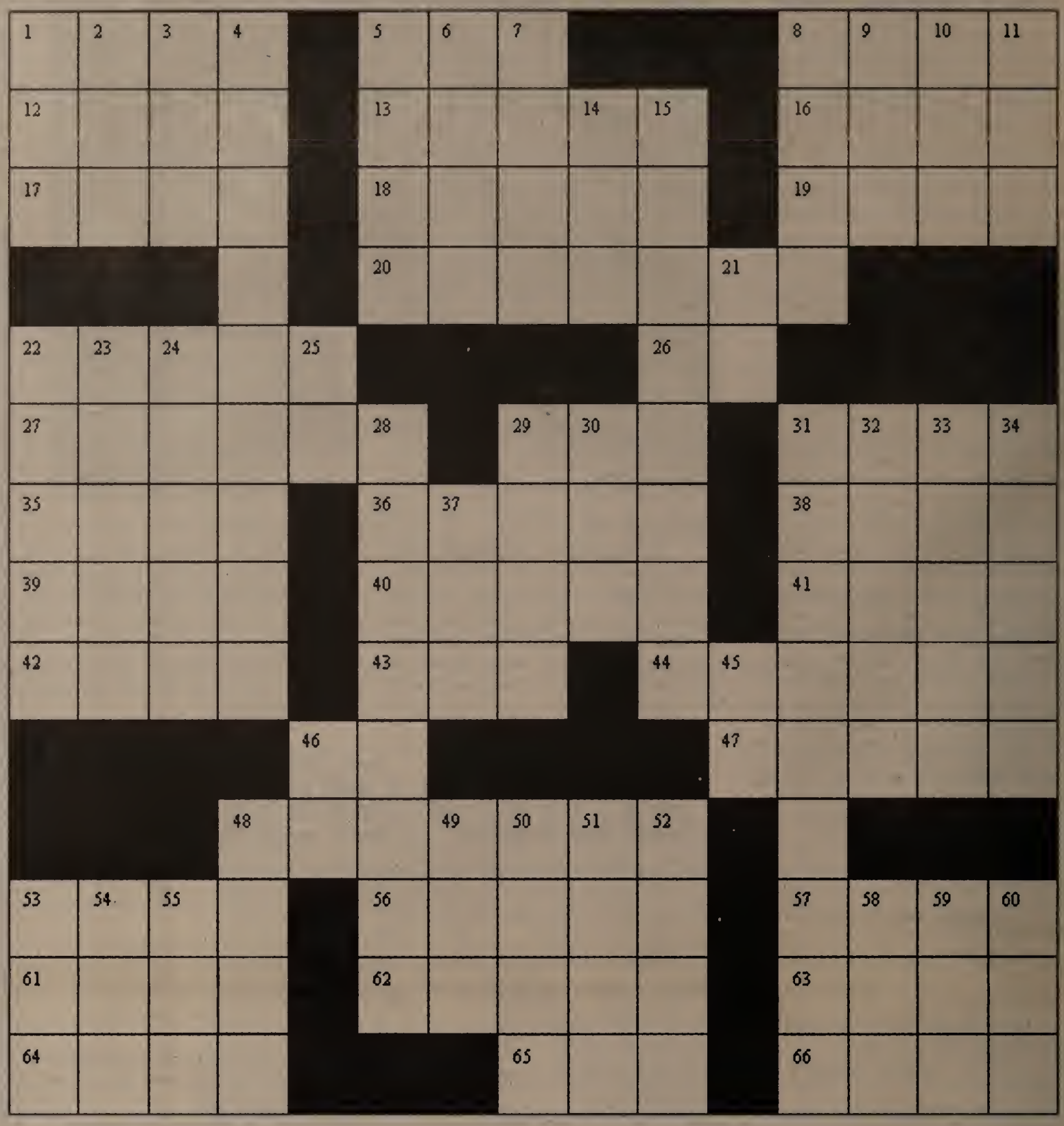
Pisces (Feb 19- March 20): The twin you ingested as a fetus is coming back for revenge.



WHAT THE ARGONAUTS REALLY DO ON FINAL FRIDAYS - CHARIOT RACING! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO DO THIS IN THE HALLOWED HALLWAYS OF BOSTON LATIN? COME JOIN THE ARGO.

Disclaimer: "three thoughts" may or may not feature real live people, but they are not in any way guaranteed to be actual quotes. In fact, "three thoughts" was written by Ying Ying Fok, II (Head Layout Editor) and Trude Raizen, II (Assistant News Editor)

Crossword



Across
1. Deoxyribonucleic acid
5. Kingís superior
8. Current president
12. Nights before
13. Male whalesí reproductive organs
16. Distant
17. Udder protrusion
18. Finger or toe
19. Assents
20. Tissue
22. Texan fort
26. Morning (abbrev.)
27. Has two sides
29. Auction call
31. Asst. editorís music group
35. So ___ ___
36. Not expired
38. Small (slang)
39. Shrek is one
40. Send by computer
41. Opera solo
42. Started a golf game; ___ off
43. Old English knob
44. Artistsí needs
46. Famous number
47. Gain
48. Kentucky Colonel
53. Bostonís subway co.
56. Al and his father
57. Green vegetable
61. Viking name
62. Luster
63. Muscatís country
64. Amount
65. Sungard Data Systemsí ticker symbol
66. Med. School entrance exam

Down
1. Obtain
2. First woman
3. Bostonís aquatic museum (abbrev.)
4. Guessed
5. Sums
6. Sacajawea is one
7. Therefore
8. Loud noise
9. Flying saucer
10. Depressed
11. Parts of a day
14. Pre-assembled set
15. Bestride
21. Sam I ___
22. Abbey leader
23. Feudal superior
24. Burning
25. Crooked (abbrev.)
28. Dusks
29. Yak
30. Plinyís three
31. Learning place
32. Passions
33. Fence part
34. Brag
37. Molar mass (abbrev.)
45. Battery size
46. Philadelphia st.
48. Japanese liquor
49. Homerís exclamation
50. Poetic befores
51. Marsh grass
52. ID numbers
53. Dr.ís prescription
54. Sibling (abbrev.)
55. "___ the season to be jolly"
58. Crossword authorís initials
59. Cheerleaderís shout
60. Bug

Crossword compiled by:
Katie Chong, I
Assistant Copy Editor

three thoughts

How do you like your eggs in the morning?

Tom Menino
Boston
Mayor

Yankees Suck.

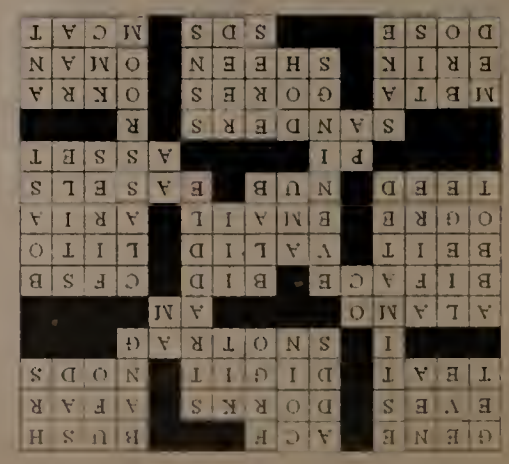
Mister Flynn
Canada
Administrator

Yankees Suck.

Grady Little
North Carolina
Unemployed

Yankees Suck.

Answers



Boston Latin School
Argo

Volume XXXIV — Issue III— December 2003

Official Newspaper of the Boston Latin School

Check out our football dynasty of yesteryear!



Britney's Back!



Booted Back to the 'Burbs: Residency Issues

By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

"Sneaky Out-of-Towners at Boston Latin?" "Cheating the Exam Schools." "Five Booted From Latin Over Residency Issues." Unless you have been living under a rock for the last few months, you have probably noticed that Boston Latin School has recently been receiving a blitz of media attention for something besides our MCAS scores. Student residency, an issue that has been ignored by many for years, has exploded into the public spotlight.

Many Latin School students know of at least one classmate who does not live within the city limits. A fraudulent address can be obtained in several ways—students frequently use the addresses of relatives living in the city. Some students have even been known to pay a Boston resident's utility bills or to falsely present a business address as a residential one. At the December 3 meeting of the Boston School Committee, one speaker referenced a case where a single family had used a Chinatown business address to send five children through the Boston Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, costing Boston taxpayers an estimated $600,000.

Taxpayers, however, are not the only victims of the scam. Families of students who have been cheated out of a seat are often forced to settle for less competitive public high schools or shell out up to $20,000 for private schools. Many of these families paid thousands of dollars for private elementary schools or tutoring programs in the hopes of sending their children to exam schools. The situation is even more unfortunate for Boston Public Schools students already placed at a disadvantage by the superior coursework and counseling available at some private elementary schools. Because none of the three exams schools have waitlists or similar programs, those who may otherwise have been afforded a seat are not allowed to attend, even if seats are freed due to the dismissal of an illegal student.

This high-stakes matter has driven more than a few Boston parents to the edge. Several Latin School parents, as well as parents with children who missed admission by just a few seats, decided to call attention to the issue. The parents enlisted the aid of City Council members Rob Consalvo and John Tobin, who have publicly spoken out against those who do not live in the city. Tobin explained to the West Roxbury *Transcript* that "people who live in the city work hard and pay a lot of taxes. I'm not trying to be an isolationist. It's a Boston public school. It should be open only to Boston residents." Commenting on the fact that non-Boston residents are allowed to take the exam and attend the schools if they academically qualify and prove residency before July 30, Tobin said, "I think it was a well-intentioned program to attract people to the city, but it has clearly gotten out of control."

This sentiment, echoed by many in the Boston Public Schools, led to the formation of a special committee at the request of the mayor. This group, called the Exam School Working Residency Group, is comprised of the mayor's Education Advisor Martha Pierce, City Councilor John Tobin, Superintendent Thomas Dowd of the Boston Police Department, Latin School familiars such as Michael Contompasis (now Chief Operating Officer of the BPS), Assistant Headmaster Philip Haberstroh, and several other people. The committee is chaired by Mary-Ellen Cafferty, the BPS Director of Operations.



COURTESY OF WWW.MBTA.COM

At the December 3 Boston School Committee meeting, the Residency Working Group presented a memorandum regarding its findings and recommendations. The group recommended a variety of solutions to the problem of student residence fraud, both before and after matriculation. Before entering the school system, the Committeee advised that students submit extra materials to prove residency, such as a parent's driver's license or W-2 tax form. In a controversial step, the group proposed that the current School Committee policy be amended to "require that students be residents of Boston prior to taking the ISEE." To combat fraud by students already in the system, the group recommended that students annually submit two proofs of residency and an affidavit certifying that they live in the city. In addition, the Committee advocated the following: conducting a random audit of 20 students per semester beginning next January and publicizing residency requirements; emphasizing the consequences of violating them; creating a phone line to receive tips; collaborating with the MBTA to "identify key T stations where out-of-city students make their way to a BPS school." Most significantly, they intend to hire a "Residency Investigator" and sue fraudulent students for retroactive tuition. Obviously, this group will stop at nothing to uncover the imposters in the school system.

There have been mixed responses from students at Latin School regarding the recent publicity of student residency. One Class II student expressed disgust over the fact that her younger brother, who missed attendance at the school by one seat, had to suffer through the process of rejection, while other students (some of whom she knows to be in his grade and falsifying residency) were allowed to take his seat. But another Class II student who wishes to remain anonymous emphasized the ambiguity of residency

Continued on page 4

That's So Gay: Marriage in Massachusetts

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

On November 18, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) made what may be the most controversial ruling in its history. In a 5 to-4 decision, the highest court in Massachusetts ordered the state to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples, thus legalizing gay marriage. The court has given the state legislature a period of 180 days to bring the state laws into compliance with its ruling.

The lawsuit, *Goodrich et al v. Department of Public Health*, was brought to court by seven same-sex couples with lawyers from Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). In 2001 these couples were all denied marriage licenses. According to the GLAD website, they argued that the "state constitution guarantees that all people shall be treated equally and enjoy fundamental liberties" and that "excluding same-sex couples and their families from civil marriage interferes with those basic premises." The state Attorney General's office stated that "those arguments should be addressed to the Legislature, which...is the body best suited to decide whether, when and how to make such a radical change in Massachusetts law."

Public reaction has varied. Each new poll of voters contradicts previous polls. Some politicians, however, have been clearer on the issue. Both Governor Mitt Romney and Attorney General Tom Reilly have vowed to pass an amendment to the state constitution. Says Romney: "Marriage is an institution between a man and a woman...and our constitution and laws should reflect that." Due to legal procedures, such an amendment cannot be passed until 2006 and would have to be passed by the majority of Massachusetts citizens. Reilly thinks that "there is considerable ambiguity" in the court's decision.

Some legislators have also taken a stand on the issue. Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran is in favor of the constitutional amendment and in the mean time says that he plans to push civil union legislation that he claims will satisfy the SJC ruling. Civil unions do not grant all of the rights marriage does and gay rights advocates want total equality under the law. They argue that civil unions do not allow couples federal recognition for 1,049 legal rights, including Social Security survivor benefits, immigration sponsorship, work leave to care for a family member, and tax benefits. Civil unions are also not recognized by many states. Proponents of gay marriage claim that civil unions create a "second-class status," something that the Massachusetts ruling seems to agree with. Senate President Robert Travaglini, who opposes gay marriage, told the *Boston Globe* he would vote against a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Travaglini was among 94 legislators to answer the *Globe*'s poll, and two thirds of the responding lawmakers would oppose such an amendment. Last week he sent a proposed civil union bill to the court to see if they would accept such a resolution to the ruling. Said Travaglini: "Our intention was not to alter or modify the decision of the court—it was just to seek clarification."

On the national level, gay marriage may become a focal point of the 2004 presidential elections. President George W. Bush is strongly opposed to gay marriage and civil unions, and is considering a national ban. Only one of the nine Democratic candidates supports gay marriage, but most are in favor of the same rights being granted to same-sex couples in the form of civil unions.

There is some history to lawsuits by same-sex couples. In 1996 a Hawaiian court ruled that the state did not have the right to prohibit same-sex marriages and the case went to the Hawaiian Supreme Court. Two years later, before the court could rule, voters amended the state's constitution to define marriage as only being between a man and a woman. Also in 1998, an Alaskan court ruled that the state did not have the right to interfere with the choice of marital partners, but several months later voters also amended the Alaskan constitution, restricting marriage to two people of the opposite sex. In 2000 the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples are entitled to the same rights and benefits as married couples. Because the Vermont court did not clarify the issue of marriage licenses, the state legislature created civil unions, granting the same rights as marriage but not marriage licenses. The civil unions and the rights they create are only effective in the state of Vermont.

The rights granted to same-sex couples include all of the privileges to which married couples are entitled in Massachusetts, but it is unclear what will happen beyond state borders. Massachusetts' same-sex marriages will likely not be recognized on a federal level, and many other states may also choose to ignore them. This very well might be the gateway to a new lawsuit that goes to the United States Supreme Court to decide for the entire country whether gay marriage is constitutional.

Editor's Note

I had prepared this long intense note about the virtues about balancing knowledge and learning to question (sorry Ms. Freeman) and caring about what's going on, but the Layout editors have just informed me that my editor's note needed to be cut down to about 150 words, so here goes the Reader's Digest version of my original:

One of the biggest dilemmas that we have to make is whether to put more focus on school news or on national and international issues. On the one hand, this is a school newspaper and we should definitely report on topics that directly affect the BLS community. Therefore, in this issue the front page covers the growing problem of students at Latin who do not live in the city but use false addresses to come here. However, there are also global issues that we, as "citizens of the world" as they say, should care about. The op-ed in Forum passionately defends the state of Israel in the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians. Israel may be thousands of miles away, but this is a problem that we as the next generation should try to understand and hopefully resolve. We're not paragons of virtue or anything, but as we try to balance our news between the goings-on at Latin or in the BPS and events happening across the country or around the world, we hope that our classmates will read it and learn more about both as well.

A happy vacation to all!

-Muching

P.S. Seniors—it's all downhill from here. Congratulations!

A Trip to The Hague

By Trish Morris, I
Contributing Writer

On November 7, 10 seniors and former students of Ms. Freeman's Facing History and Ourselves class traveled to Amsterdam: Katie Barnes, Ariana Barr, Lupita Colon, Joni Dames, Matt DiVito, Lydia Downing, Caitlin Gianniny, Kassie Skipper, Mallory Sullivan, and myself. The main purpose of our trip was to visit the International Criminal Court in the Hague and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to sit in on Slobodan Milosevic's trial. Milosevic was being tried for war crimes committed while he was the president of Serbia, part of the former Yugoslavia.

We arrived in Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Saturday morning after traveling overnight on Friday. After dropping off our bags at the small, artsy hotel next to a canal, as everything seems to be in the Netherlands, we headed straight for the Anne Frank House. The entrance to the house and the annex is at near-90-degree angle and is extremely narrow. Upstairs are the two small rooms where Anne and her family hid during World War II and the attic where Gestapo found them when two factory workers gave them away.



BY CAITLIN GIANNINY, I

We were then led to a conference room to discuss UTPOR, the peaceful Serbian resistance against Milosevic's government. UTPOR staged a number of protests to stop the genocide of Yugoslavian Muslims. The organization was angry when NATO bombed Kosovo to stop the killing: the organization had been achieving its goals through nonviolent means when NATO violently sidestepped them. We were then taken to the Vertzsmuseum, the Dutch Resistance Museum, where there was a temporary exhibit on UTPOR.

The next day we went to three art museums, starting with the Van Gogh Museum. It houses more than 200 paintings, including some of his of famous pieces. Then we went to the Rijksmuseum, the largest museum in the Netherlands, which contains some of the most famous Vermeer and Rembrant paintings. Finally, we visited the Stedlijk, a contemporary art museum.

On Monday, our last full day, we took an hour-long train ride to the Hague. After extensive security checks, we entered the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and were escorted to the courtroom. Instead of seeing Milosevic, we heard Richard Butler, a former NATO employee, testify about the Srebrenica massacre in Yugoslavia. During the Kosovo War, Dutch U.N. peacekeepers had occupied the town of Srebrenica and had declared it a safe zone. When Srebrenica and the Dutch military appeared be in danger of Serbian attack, the entire U.N. force evacuated, leaving 7,000 Muslim men and boys to fend for themselves against Milosevic's army. The Muslims were slaughtered and when news came out about this catastrophe, the entire Dutch parliament resigned in response.

After the ICTY we took a streetcar to the headquarters of the International Criminal Court (ICC), a new organization set up in 2002 as a last resort for countries unable or unwilling to try their own war criminals. To be tried, however, a nation must have agreed to the ICC's Rome Statute, a set of rules, both political and humanitarian, by which the signature nations must abide. To date, 92 countries have signed on to the ICC. The United States refuses to sign and is also responsible for persuading other countries not to sign, an action which has caused controversy. The most interesting aspect of the Office of the Prosecutor is that the Prosecutor accepts referrals not only from State Parties, the UN Security Council and NGO's, but also from concerned individuals. The Statute mandates that "serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole will not be left unpunished."

Before leaving the Netherlands, we managed to find time to mix a little business with pleasure. On Sunday night, the Latin crew, accompanied by Philip, our guide from the International School of Prague, took a stroll through Amsterdam's infamous red-light district. It was just as wild as we had thought, complete with prostitutes, sex shops, and hash bars. After our stroll we ended up in a small café, singing karaoke and having a grand old time.

Our trip ended with a frenzied shopping rush in Schiphol Airport, where Amsterdam's largest shopping mall is located. We then boarded the plane to return home. After such a whirlwind trip it was hard to believe that we were already on our way back. As I happily greeted family and friends, I nevertheless secretly wished for one more day with the canals, windmills, and clogs.

Boston Latin School Argo

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR
BOSTON, MA 02115

Mission Statement
Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Hate Crime Legislation

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

According to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, a hate crime is "a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim... because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person."

Hate crimes, only officially recognized a few years ago, have become a large, juicy bone of contention on America's political scene. On the one hand (the left, to be exact), leaders and activists are pushing for legislation for increased penalties on crimes believed to fall into this category. Meanwhile, conservatives have dismissed these efforts as "thought legislation," an untenable attempt to penalize criminals based on not just their actions but on their private opinions.

The fundamental question is whether or not tolerance can be legislated. Despite opposition, politicians have endeavored to do just that. More than 40 states have passed laws directed at or encompassing hate crimes, although several have yet to include crimes motivated by gender or sexual preference. Federal hate crime legislation began with the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 and continued with six related acts, including one addressing church arson. However, none of the acts effectively addresses crimes against individuals, neglecting to deal with violence based on sexual orientation or gender.

Since 1999 the movement to create functional federal hate crime laws appears to have been stymied. Earlier this year, senators from both the Democratic and Republican parties joined in the most recent of many bipartisan efforts to enact a strong hate-crime bill. The bill was passed in the Senate but, like its predecessors, it went down in the House. Conservative Republicans have consistently resisted their more liberal colleagues and successfully prevented the passing of such legislation, arguing murder is always reprehensible, no matter what the perpetrator's motives.



Although the extensive senatorial squabbling has achieved little, hate crimes continue to be an issue on a local and personal level. In Boston last summer, a woman was attacked and beaten by a group of high school students. The attack appears to have been prompted by the victim's public celebration of the Fourth of July with her same-sex partner. Intolerance and persecution is prevalent in high schools throughout the country as well, according to Massachusetts Civil Rights Director David Rudewick, who says that while hate crimes are common in schools, "the problem is people usually don't correctly identify them as hate crimes and when they do, they often don't report them to law enforcement."

Regardless of the current legal status of hate crimes, their presence in high schools is disturbing. While strict laws are one possible deterrent, Rudewick and other civil rights workers have focused on raising awareness. When speaking to the cast of *The Laramie Project* at Boston Latin School this November, he wholeheartedly endorsed the play and similar productions for educating young people about hate crimes. Matthew Shepard, the young gay man whose brutal 1998 murder inspired the play, along with James Byrd, a black man who was dragged to death in Texas a few months earlier, had helped spur some of the original federal laws.

Rudewick distinguishes hate crimes from others not just in motivation but in result. "Hate crimes target whole populations and, like terrorism, induce fear. They cause long-lasting psychological harm and are more likely to involve brutal violence that requires hospitalization. Hate crimes provoke community unrest and retaliatory crimes."

Clearly, the root of the problem is not the crime but the hate. To destroy it and make hate crimes a thing of the past, with or without legislation, Rudewick urges everyone who encounters bigotry to "speak out! When safe challenge bigoted comments. When you hear prejudiced, biased, or ignorant statements, question and break down critically instead of shaming or preaching. Like Socrates, use questioning to help illuminate, and stop he progression of prejudice before it develops into hate violence."

Boston-Strasbourg Exchange

By Ulrike Kraeft, II
Staff Writer

What is it like to play host to foreign students whose country one just visited the summer before last? 14 teenagers were able to answer this question this summer, with the exchange program between Strasbourg, France and Boston. The exchange, sponsored every two years by the Boston-Strasbourg Sister City Association (http://www.sdv.fr/boston/; http://www.alsace-usa.com/), headed in Boston by Mme. Louise Burke, is open to a very lucky few children in the Boston Public Schools. One has to go through a stringent selection process involving an application, essay and interview. This year, there were 12 from Boston Latin School alone, and it was amazing for everybody to show their home town to the French students for two and a half weeks.

In the morning, faculty sponsor Mrs. Monique Brun related, visiting students took classes at the Copley Library until noon. The scholars got a taste of the history of the United States, American culture, some English, the government, and the places they were to visit that afternoon, including the Museum of Science, the Aquarium, the Kennedy Museum, and Harvard Yard. A Red Trolley tour was also arranged to see the sights. This proved to be a learning experience not only for the French but also for the Bostonians. One of the most memorable events was the celebration of Bastille Day at the French Library. Through all of the events, one has to mention that without the support of all the parents, as well as Mrs. Brun, who put many hours into her favorite project, many things would not have been possible. They were vital to the success of the adventure.

Overall, as in years past, Mrs. Brun was excited about the effect of the program on the kids. She says that after such a trip, people change, especially with the trip to France last summer. The words of one of the participants, Alyson Sheehan (11) sum up the feelings shared by everyone: "It helped me get a broader awareness of the world." She, like many others, had not been out of the country before, and this experience gave her a new understanding of the language and culture. She made lots of friends with whom she still stays in touch. Another member of the exchange that took place this summer, Kira Sargent (III) said that she loved meeting and spending time with "very fun people." Jessica Walsh (III) said that her favorite part of the exchange was "learning about how the teenagers of another culture act compared to Americans." A fundamental lesson everyone learned is that teenagers everywhere are the same on an elemetary level, with the same problems and dramas. Before Sheehan went to Strasbourg, she had expected a whole different lifestyle. But instead she found unexpected similarities. Until the American hosts of the exchange met their new French friends, French was just another class in school. Afterwards, the experience made French come alive.

Mrs. Brun hopes that this year more students will take the opportunity to explore such a new world, and that the students who were not able to participate last year will get the chance. She noticed how one puts together the positives of each country to help oneself grow. Not only that, but this summer the group also took a trip to Six Flags New England, and compared it to their own Europa Park in nearby Germany. There were also visits to New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New York and Canada.

Finally, the farewell celebration at the Venezia restaurant on the waterfront brought tears to everyone's eyes. No one will forget these two years of contact and two summers of fun. Members of the French Consulate, the Richelieu Society and the French Cultural Society as well as alumni of the program, attended the party. The parents who donated tote bags filled with American souvenirs and the rest of the adults, are to be commended for their hard work. The exchange was a success again with a positive impact on all those who took part. If you are interested in going to Strasbourg please see Mrs. Brun (035) by January 20.



News

The Pour House

By Lin Ma, I
Food Columnist

The Pour House
909 Boylston Street, Boston
(617) 236-1767
Transportation: Hynes Convention T-Stop on the Green line.

Cuisine Type: American bar & grill
Class: 6/10
Ambiance: 7/10
Cleanliness: 5/10
Service: 9/10
Quality: 9/10
Value: 10/10

Between juggling your holiday shopping budget and saving up for trips to the ski slopes or the theater, food may be the last thing you can splurge on. But do not let the season's expensive festivities hinder your dining experience. Buried between the posh and pricey restaurants of Newbury Street and the passé Prudential Food Court is the Pour House (pun intended), a multilevel sports bar that serves up delicious grill favorites at rarely-found cheap prices. The place is always packed with young people, even when I paid my first visit during the height of the Nor'easter snow storm.

The initial impression the Pour House gives is casual and rugged. You walk in and seat yourself when there are empty tables, but expect a wait if you are not early. Menus, condiments, utensils, and napkins sit neatly against the wall for your convenience and self service. Nevertheless, you are greeted by a warm and welcoming waitress who will take your order as you please. The brick walls and dark lighting are the backdrop for the more lighthearted beer-bottle motifs painted on every table. In fact, the whole bar is adorned with brand-name alcohol logos. There are no windows, but there *are* painted ones hung above every booth, and in each a realistic character is drawn holding a bottle of liquor—above my booth was a seductive blond in a summer dress posing with a Bud Light. The half-dozen televisions hung around the bar, along with a big-screen projector, also provide steady entertainment for sports fans. There are two floors to accommodate the huge crowds that gather during happy hour.

Even more impressive than the merry environment is the extensive menu that offers breakfast and lunch foods at all hours. The pancakes, toast, and eggs are priced between $5 and $6 per dish, but come in heaping portions with a variety of sides. Yet the highlights of the menu are undoubtedly their "stately burgers" (burgers named after states), ranging from $4 to $6 in price, depending on the toppings. For an extra dollar you can add an extra patty to your quarter-pounder. Their chicken sandwiches are tasty as well, seasoned with a breadcrumb crust and deep-fried until crispy—but still juicy. Every burger or sandwich is embellished with lettuce, tomatoes, a pickle slice, and plenty of fries. When the kitchen gets busy, however, your fries may arrive at the table barely hotter than room temperature. Although their menu includes a notable list of appetizers, including wings and tenders, do not order them unless you intend to share with dining buddies. The Buffalo tenders ($4.95) arrive in a giant mound of eight palm-sized pieces drenched in hot sauce. The portions at the Pour House are generous, and the appetizers are no exception. Perhaps the most outrageously-priced item was the strawberry frappe ($2.75) I ordered to accompany my meal. But the creamy fruit filled concoction was sinfully good and more tasty than any smoothie or milkshake served elsewhere at steeper prices and in smaller quantities.

If the already low prices are still not affordable enough to fit into your holiday budget, then come in Wednesday night for their $2.50 chicken sandwich offer. If you can bear a crowd, swing by Saturday night when all their burgers are discounted by an ample 50 percent. With these prices, flavorful food, and the friendly atmosphere, I have become a regular—you probably will too.

New Policies in the Keefe Library

By Olivia Paquette, III
Contributing Writer

If you have recently signed up to use the library during a study period, you may have noticed that stricter policies are being implemented in the Keefe Library Media Center. Since the beginning of December, rules regarding student usage of the library during studies have been more stringently enforced: each student can only sign up for one study per day and must fill out all required information on the sign-up sheet. If you have not signed up completely or you arrive late during your free period, chances are that you will not be allowed to remain in the library.

These are not new rules, but since December 1, the library has been trying to make sure that students sign up for themselves alone and for only one study period per day. This is intended to allow a greater number of students to use the library. School librarian Pat Howkinson says the purpose of recent policy enforcements is to "make room for students who want to do research," and to give librarians "a chance to help students use the library resources." To aid students in research for school projects, the library also plans to update the links on the Boston Latin School website that give students access to several online databases.

In order to inform students about the changes occurring in library policies, signs have been posted inside the library explaining new procedures and rules. This may be a problem for students who do not regularly go to the library or have found it full during their study periods. The updated list of rules will eventually replace the one found at the beginning of our agenda book. (Never noticed it? Look on page 17.) The newer list clearly states what steps must be followed to use the library during a study.

The librarians are not working alone to make sure everything runs smoothly. Student aides in the library help check lists and distribute passes to study rooms. According to Howkinson, the library relies heavily on volunteer work. Parent volunteers as well as student volunteers help out during and after school. "We even have grandparent volunteers," she says. These volunteers work hard to ensure that the library runs efficiently and that students have every opportunity to use it. The library's recent rule enforcements share the same purpose. It is hoped that it will become easier for students to use the library as a tool for research and schoolwork.

Residency Issues

Continued from page 1

requirements. She moved with her parents to a suburb after being admitted to the seventh grade, and now uses the address of a legal guardian in order to attend the school. She says that she doubts that she will be kicked out since her legal guardian is a Boston taxpayer, but "if I have to I'll sleep in the room I have there [in Boston], if that's what my parents decide." The issue of blame is particularly difficult: many students feel that the expulsion of their illegitimate peers punishes the child rather than the parents who made the decision to forge their residency.

In the light of yet another student expulsion last Friday, the anonymous junior says, "It's ridiculous...they should have been filtering students more since the beginning, but to kick someone out after they've been through so much...they're unfairly being made an example of. No one can have the seat. It's not going to do anyone any good." That may not, however, be entirely true. Even if another Boston student cannot fill the seat, vacancies are especially beneficial when it comes to classroom overcrowding, seats in AP classes, and scholarships given to seniors on Prize Night.

Although it seems to have faded from memory, one student in the class of 2000 who falsified a Boston address and actually lived in Quincy received a coveted "Boston Scholars" award, a full scholarship to Boston University. After the Patriot Ledger ran an article on the Quincy resident who had won the scholarship, the sham was exposed. Because of a loophole in the wording of the scholarship, it could not be rescinded.

It is unclear exactly how many students at exam schools throughout the system are falsifying addresses in order to leech off of Boston taxpayers. But as Frank Sullivan, a Bulletin columnist, frankly stated at the December 3 meeting, "Some alumni of Boston Latin School are millionaires or even Hollywood actors. Based on the deception taking place, not all the actors are in Hollywood."

Jonathon McPhee Visit

By Emilia Zambrano, I
Contributing Editor

Ah, 'tis the season of musical merriment as the Senior String Ensemble prepares selections from the Nutcracker for the Holiday Concert. Conducting the piece will be Maestro Slevira, a newcomer to the Arts Department. Slevira, actually a former member of the Boston Ballet Orchestra, used his connections to invite Jonathan McPhee, the conductor of the Boston Ballet Orchestra, to guest-conduct the Senior String Ensemble. McPhee was kind enough to answer some questions as well.

How long have you been conducting?

I have been conducting for the past 35 years. I entered the Royal Academy of London at the age of 16, received a Queen's grant in conducting, and then went on to Juilliard. I started conducting the Boston Ballet Orchestra 15 years ago.

So, what's this I hear about there being no Nutcracker next year?

Unfortunately, we are being evicted from the Wang Center next year. The Wang Center, for which I helped design the pit, is planning on replacing the Nutcracker with a touring version of New York City's Radio City Music Hall Christmas. The problem is that there aren't enough performing spaces in Boston, especially ones that would need to accommodate a show like the Nutcracker. There is a conflict between not-for-profit art (like the Nutcracker) and commercial Broadway shows. The Wang was originally designed for not-for-profit art, but the owner wants a more financially generating Christmas production.

This truly takes the "nut" out of Nutcracker and takes an audience-filled, traditionally renowned, and exquisitely magical arts production about Christmas out of Wang Center and into—well, certainly not to the magical Kingdom of the Sweets. The Nutcracker is attended by 120,000 people every year and is the third most important Arts production in Boston. Despite the news of a sour Sugar Plum Fairy next year, the Nutcracker this year will go on until December 30.

What do you think about music education?

> *"Music teaches abstract thinking—it's not definitive and leaves ample room for creativity."*

I am a firm believer in music education and was very impressed with the BLS Fine Arts Department, but sad that many other schools in Boston don't have music programs, a situation which is not being helped by budget cuts. I am disappointed that so much attention has been given to the MCAS that other things like music have been overlooked and deemed as "unnecessary extras." Music teaches abstract thinking: it's not definitive, and leaves ample room for creativity.

Do you conduct for any other organizations?

I also conducted the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, which is comprised of members of the Medical Community. Their performances support medical institutions around Boston and also provide relaxation for the performers. If you think about it, they need creativity with their jobs, and music is a relief after having to deal with life-and-death situations.

Do you have any advice for musicians as well as non-musicians?

I find it beneficial to keep an open mind and to find what makes people "tick." I cannot emphasize enough the importance of posture and how you present yourself.

What interesting quirks come along with your job?

Being in the pit is very different from being onstage and also presents very uncanny situations. Having to coordinate with the dancers on stage is hard enough without having very inquisitive audience members in proximity. One audience member asked me what all the instruments were while I was conducting in the middle of a performance, another told me to stop "flapping" my arms, and I once saw a very curious child poke his head through the curtains. However, nothing is more annoying than cell phones and the audience members in denial that their phone is ringing.

The Senior String Ensemble is hoping to have Mr. McPhee guest-conduct again for their next piece. The visit from this highly distinguished member of the Arts community was truly appreciated by the Arts Department.

Holiday Greetings

WE WISH YOU A...

I cannot change yesterday.
I can only make the most of today. And look with hope toward tomorrow.
- Mr. Keitt

Happy Holidays
Christine, Huiyi,
Yang, Maggie,
Berlinda!
-Kristina Keller

Merry Christmas, Lisa Jing! Have fun with our money! <3 Lului, Mo, YeA & Bacon

Happy X-mas 2 all
My PrEpPy girls!
Becca, Chau, + Melie
luv ya!
BFFLAO - ukwur!
-Linze

Merry X-mas to everyone!
Big shoutout to all my homiez…

Happy Holidays!
Kenjiracita quiero taco BEN,
Kimicita quiero Lunnie
Love,
Kenjiracita 4 Kimicita '06

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATIE!!!
–JO

W-UNIT is back, get ready…
P.S. sorry guys
-W-UNIT

Need Date for Junior Prom, may do anything for one
–Wen Lo

To ninth grade chorus, Concert Choir, Gospel Choir, and Show Choir Pizazz". I would like to thank you for your continuous excellence and hard work. With all of my heart, I would like to say I LOVE YOU and appreciate your smiles. And to the sixies, you're the coolest.
Love, Mr. Simmons

Rafael
Loves
Melina Munoz
- Rafael Feliciano

Jonathan made me pay $2, this is not an act of free will. Please do not hold me responsible.
- Katie Harrison

Thank you, students, for being a part of the fine arts department. You're Greeeaaaat!
From: Ms. Teasdale and Mr. Simmons

A grateful thank you to the many beautiful students of the BLS Community who help me with my bags all through the year.
I love you
–Nez M.

Bog Saget is my nemesis!
Binky the Squirrel is my Redeemer!
- Mr. Avery

Come See
The Award-Winning
Drama Club's
Winter Production
Dimly Perceived
Threats to the System
3/19 - 3/21

Partial Birth Abortion: To Ban or Not to Ban?

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

Picture a hospital room. A doctor is about to induce labor on a pregnant woman. The unborn baby's head slowly comes out of the uterus. This could be the scene from *A Baby Story* on TLC. The father begins to cry and squeeze the woman's hand, nurses congratulate the mother, and the doctor coaxes the mother to give one last push before her bundle of joy arrives into the world. Suddenly, the doctor takes a sharp instrument, shoves it into the back of the child's skull and proceeds to literally suck out the child's brains. When this is done and the child is dead, the stillborn body is delivered. Sound like a scene from a creepy science fiction movie? No, this is a partial birth abortion. Partial birth abortions are gruesome, disgusting, and unethical. They occur after the third month of pregnancy, when the fetus has formed into a distinguishable baby. If head-first labor cannot be induced, it is induced feet first until the belly button is visible. Then, the doctor proceeds to shove the instrument up the woman's uterus, find the stem of the child's neck, and suck out its brains. This must be much easier on a doctor's conscience, not having to see the small eyes, the tiny, tiny nose and the indent of the mute mouth of the innocent baby he is about to kill. I bet he sleeps well at night.

On November 5, President Bush signed the "Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003" into law. It made these immoral "abortions" illegal. This bill is an important step to end the immoral and unethical use of medicinal advances to restrict life. Abortion is a hotly-debated issue ranging from those who believe that all abortions are murder to those who believe women have the right to choose whether or not to have a child. Regardless of one's stance on abortion in general, partial birth abortion is an odious mistreatment of life. Doctors and physicians who are staunchly pro-choice have indeed admitted that partial birth abortion is very different from other types of abortion, because the termination of the fetus occurs outside of the uterus during induced labor. It has been medically proven that unborn children react to pain and stimuli. Their reaction is even greater than that of newborn infants and young children. Thus, it is fair to say that an unborn baby can fully feel the stab of this instrument into the bottom of his skull. The baby cannot wail or cry in agony, yet it can feel a cold instrument being plunged into its skull. This, in and of itself, results in a conflict of interest for a doctor. A doctor is supposed to promote life. How is he promoting life when he has induced labor and destroyed a newborn that in one more second would become a person under law?

Some opponents of the new law, which promotes life and restricts such grotesque practices, say that the law should not have been passed because it does not allow an exception for the health of the mother. Indeed, a mother's health is viewed by many as an important consideration when discussing the legality of abortions. However, it has been medically proven that partial birth abortions in fact put the mother at risk. Partial birth abortion can result in hemorrhaging or excessive bleeding as well as rupture of the uterus, which could destroy a woman's ability to be able to carry a baby to term in the future. The procedure can also induce shock, resulting in the death of the mother. This does not even consider the psychological effects of having an abortion, in which a fetus seconds away from becoming a child is killed. In addition, partial birth abortion is no safer than other legal ways to terminate a pregnancy. Perhaps the most telling is that the physician who is actually credited with developing the partial birth abortion technique testified before Congress and said that he has seen no cases in which a partial birth abortion was necessary in lieu of another unrestricted abortion procedure. This, added to the fact that no medical school in the United States currently teaches students how to perform partial birth abortions, seems to be evident enough that the illegalization of this unethical practice is indeed moral and is a necessary advancement to end the use of medicine to justify brutality.

The illegalization of partial birth abortion is not only a victory for pro-life camps: it is a victory for all of those who value human life. Regardless of one's stance on abortion, making this inhumane practice of partial birth abortion illegal brings some measure of ethics into abortion in general.



BY BORA PLAKU, II

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

A fetus, not many weeks from birth and already recognizably human, is pulled from its mother's womb by artificially-induced labor. As it emerges into the world its cranium is punctured by a waiting doctor, ending its life before it can begin.

An undeniably grim image, and one that has been widely propagated by pro-life groups. The clinical brutality it seems to demonstrate, the whole idea of disinterestedly snuffing out a baby's life, is repulsive to the average American—indeed, to the average human being. Who wouldn't oppose such a barbaric practice?

The Supreme Court, for one. In the past 30 years, the Court has repeatedly made decisions supporting not only the right to conventional, first- or second-trimester abortions, but also affirming a physician's right to perform more extreme late-term abortions at his or her own discretion if the mother so desires. Since the Supreme Court is not, on the whole, believed to be populated by infanticidal maniacs, it seems that there may be more to the story.

Until a few weeks ago, late-term abortions—sensationally labelled "partial-birth" abortions by opponents—were legal if carrying the infant to term would potentially threaten the mother's life or health. Attempts to legislate specific restrictions had been struck down due to the difficulty of quantifying "health," and the Court has affirmed its desire to leave the decision to the only people familiar with the individual case: the mother and her physician.

That right has now been endangered by a new law signed on November 5, making late-term abortions illegal except when the mother's life is in danger. Her health, physical or mental, is not taken into consideration, and neither is the condition of the fetus.

What this new law fails to take into account are the circumstances under which this drastic procedure is performed. Often, babies are aborted late in the pregnancy because of crippling or fatal birth defects. While the mother may survive such a pregnancy, it could deal a devastating blow to her health and her ability to have children—a result contrary to the aims of those who claim to oppose abortion because they value life at all costs. When these defects are not detectable earlier in the pregnancy, or when a mother desperate to keep her child has refused to accept the inevitable, a late-term abortion may be the only option.

The legislation is also painfully restrictive to the medical community. A ban that makes no allowance for the mother's health hobbles doctors, rendering them unable to act in the best interests of their patients without fearing prosecution.

However, the most glaring oversight is undoubtedly Bush's failure to look ahead, after the children "saved" by this ban are born. According to Wade F. Horn, the assistant secretary for Children and Families, the budget for the administration for Children and Families has gone down in recent years, at Bush's behest. Children's services are strained nationwide already. These unwanted babies, if given up for adoption, will be lucky to find a lifelong home—especially if, as is often the case with LTA, they have physical or mental problems. Their future is bleak, and little is being done to improve it.

A misguided law that menaces doctors and clumsily attempts to save fetuses at the cost of the mother, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban is a chilling forerunner of other potential infringements on women's rights. Sadly, it will ultimately harm those it seeks to help—the mothers and children whose lives and happiness are at stake.

The Suburbs: So Close and Yet so Far...

By Rebecca Adams, II
Staff Writer

So close, and yet so far away. This is how I, a "city" teenager, feel about the teens from the suburbs. A couple of extra stops on the bus, a few more miles on the T, and there you are: in the suburbs. To many city kids, the suburbs are rarely visited and rarely considered: they are just out there, somewhere, and filled with kids named Susan, Brad, Walter and Charlie. It is considered strange for kids from the suburbs to hang out with kids from the city. Our schools are filled with city kids such as ourselves (well, mostly) and their schools are filled with suburban kids. It's almost a type of segregation. But, really, what is the difference between these suburban kids and us? So what if their daddies buy them Mustangs and their mommies take them shopping at Bloomingdale's. (Dare I say "Bloomies"?) These kids are really just like us—or are they?

In general, city kids are considered "faster." This doesn't necessarily mean sexually: we just experience more by the time we get to high school than they do by the time they turn 30. We learned to take the bus at the age of five and we learned how *not* to look at someone on the Orange line. We know that it's *not cool* to hang out on Newbury Street or to go on the Duck Tours. We've learned by the time we're 12 that every part of Boston has a nickname (Dot, Rozzie, Westie, Southie, JP, Eastie, etc.). Suburban kids, on the other hand, come here with no knowledge of this. This is only in Boston! Imagine how much the suburban kids have to learn in New York! They must come to the city looking like deer trapped in headlights. Every hobo they see on the street becomes a tourist attraction.

Seriously, suburban kids are different. The school system in the suburbs is generally much better than that in the city. There is more money to put into the school system, which results in newer textbooks, which in turn tends to result in better-educated kids. They have newer facilities and extensive arts departments, along with enough money to raise a small army of football players. The budget for city schools barely allots for enough paper. There are many more extracurricular activities for suburban kids because the schools can afford them. These activities keep the suburban kids off the streets, while the city kids are left with no activities unless they play a sport or are active in the arts.

Other than the differences listed above, city kids and suburban kids are very similar. We all go through the same problems and have generally the same experiences with school, family and friends. All high school kids, whether they are from Boston or from Weston, can complain about their workload and about their siblings. We all face issues with our friends, boyfriends and girlfriends. Our parents all annoy us and we all can't wait to get our licenses. So maybe, we're not as different as we think we are.

Forum
Legalize Gay Marriage ?



By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

The Constitution ensures "equal protection under the law" for all citizens. When the Supreme Judicial Court ruled last month that allowing gay marriage was indeed required by the Constitution, they took a huge step in the direction of equal rights and tolerance for same-sex couples and families. The controversy surrounding the issue of gay marriage within the Commonwealth is largely unnecessary. Most opposition to such marriage is based on religious rhetoric and "tradition." Although it is understandable that some individuals may feel uncomfortable and may not religiously agree with gay marriage, that is no reason why the state should be able to discriminate against individuals on account of their sexual orientation. The current discussion of altering the SJC's ruling on gay marriage is absurd.

For thousands of years marriage has been a religious institution. Yet the sort of marriage currently under consideration is a civil institution—no religious denomination would be forced to perform marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples. Because Massachusetts uses marriage for the determination of certain legal rights (such as inheritance, hospital visiting privileges, etc.), it is only fair that same-sex couples should be entitled to the same rights as straight ones. As the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, "separate but equal" institutions such as civil unions for gay couples and marriage for straight couples are not only unfairly discriminatory, but unconstitutional as well. The institution of marriage brings with it an array of privileges which are not a part of civil unions: being "married" supports different connotations than being a partner in a civil union does. Even if legislation were proposed so that civil unions included every legal right that marriage entails, the social meaning of marriage (excluding religious reasoning) is the joining of two people who love each other and wish to make their commitment public and permanent. The concept of a civil union is more of a legal arrangement than one based on love and seems to imply an inferiority to marriage.

It is the duty of the Commonwealth to make civil marriage an institution which is available to any couple in the state that wishes to have every legal and social privilege associated with marriage. As the Supreme Judicial Court stated in their historic 4-3 decision, "Barred access to the protections, benefits, and obligations of civil marriage, a person who enters into an intimate, exclusive union with another of the same sex is arbitrarily deprived of membership in one of our community's most rewarding and cherished institutions. That exclusion is incompatible with the constitutional principles of respect for individual autonomy and equality under law."

Despite all of the logical and legal reasons that gay marriage should become legal in Massachusetts (and ought to be legalized in every other state), many gay marriage opponents, including governor Romney, have cited "three thousand years of recorded history" as a reason that marriage should remain restricted to heterosexual couples. Yet we live in a rapidly changing world, and "because it has always been that way" is not a valid argument for maintaining discriminatory practices. Traditions are not valuable in and of themselves: they need to be justified by modern standards if they are to continue to exist. Indeed, history is changing: many progressive and forward—thinking nations such as Canada, Belgium and the Netherlands have already legalized gay marriage. In addition, the definition of marriage has continued to evolve over the past several decades, and in many states interracial marriage has only become legal in the past few years. It is absurd that we cannot allow individuals who happen to love a member of their own sex (including many individuals whom we allow to teach children in public schools and work on our behalf in the government) to have their love and commitment formally recognized.

Any attempt to legislate public opinion by altering the SJC's decision should be met with the strongest of resistance. Because there is no sufficient legal or moral argument against gay marriage, the SJC was entirely correct in its ruling.

By Mark Tassinari, I
Syndicated Columnist

Marriage—the formal union of a man and a woman, typically recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife. (*The New Oxford American Dictionary*, 2001.) What is there to debate about? Do I have to give the definition of "man and a woman" too?

Now what is so important about marriage? Marriage is based on the fact that a man and woman—only a man and a woman—can reproduce together. Marriage is an institution that virtually all religions and cultures throughout human history have recognized as existing between a man and a woman. Marriage is the building block of society and its destruction will lead to any society's downfall. America, whether people like it or not, has a Judeochristian heritage upon which our society is based. Does anyone honestly think that the strict Puritans in Massachusetts, where church and state where not divided until 1833, intended homosexuals to be allowed to marry when they wrote their constitution?

The Massachusetts Supreme Court somehow thinks so. They think that the right to get married should not be denied to anyone, as long as they love each other and are committed. (Both are intangible terms.) The Court says that homosexuals should not be denied the rights that traditional couples get when they marry. According to the Court, because some married couples are unfortunately unable to conceive a child, the ability to conceive a child is not a prerequisite for marriage. There is, however, a big difference between an infertile traditional couple, who with the rapid advance of medical science may one day be able to conceive a child, and a homosexual couple, who never will. The Supreme Court also said that homosexual couples should have rights such as hospital visits and inheritance. The Legislature was working on a compromise between protecting the sanctity of marriage and giving some of the rights of traditional couples to homosexual couples by allowing civil unions, before the Court forced homosexual marriage upon us.

All you need is love? Many people say that they have no problem with allowing homosexuals to marry because it does not hurt them personally. But it weakens the sanctity of marriage and sets the stage for the more changes to the institution. If two people regardless of their sex can get married, then why not let three people marry? If all you need is love, as the Court says, then if a man loves two women, why can't he marry both of them? Heck, why not let ten, or a dozen people marry, let the entire lonely state of North Dakota marry each other, so they will not be so lonely--all they need is love! Let cousins or siblings marry, all they need is love. Indeed, you are not getting the benefits of a married couple living alone, with just your faithful dog. Anything that runs to greet you when you get home must love you, so marry your dog, all you need is love.

Perhaps I am getting a bit ridiculous; people would never stand for such practices, right? Probably not, but the people have almost no say in the matter. The Supreme Court showed us that all you need is four out of seven judges appointed by a governor who was voted into office before the cases were even on the horizon. The Supreme Courts of Alaska and Hawaii also voted to let homosexuals marry, but they gave the legislators time to pass an amendment to the state constitution if they did not think it was right. In both cases the legislators passed such an amendment. Yet in Massachusetts the Supreme Court gave the Legislature only 180 days to pass a law allowing gay marriages. The process of amending the state constitution takes at least three years. Thus, the Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that it by itself has the to authority to change an institution that has existed from the beginning of human history. As dissenting Justice Martha Sosman wrote, "the case stands as an aberration. To reach the result it does, the court has tortured the rational basis test beyond recognition."

It is time that the legislators and governor show the SJC who makes and enforces laws. They need to do everything they can to fight the Court and delay homosexual marriage until we can have a state initiative to see if the majority of people, not four judges, think we need to ehange the dictionary and ten thousand years of tradition.

Please visit www.blsargo.org to take our interactive poll.

Do you agree with the recent Supreme Judicial Court decision to legalize gay marriage?



…se, because everyone should be … It doesn't matter what people … Constitution exists to protect the minority from the majority."
—Joni Dames, I



"Yes, I do, because I think the stability and union of a marriage should be granted to any couple. Allowing gay marriages doesn't take anything away from traditional marriages."
—Martha O'Connell, II



"I think it's very wrong because I'm a Christian, and God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."
—Ashley Badgett, III



"Yes, I support it, because if a partner of the same sex makes you happy then you should have the right to legally marry them."
—Jonathan Lara, IV



"I think it's none of anyone's business if gay people want to get married. I don't think homosexuality is right, but it's no one's business but their own."
—Kamau Jawarakim, V



"Yes, because it gives them rights that normal marriages would have."
—Fred Richmond, VI

PHOTOS BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Forum: Editorial Page

Editorials written by
Erin Durkin, I
Queen Arsem-O'Malley, VI
Yuan Zhang, I
Opinions are those of the Editorial Board

Lav Limits

On November 20, 2003, all Masters received a notice from Assistant Headmaster Malcolm Flynn stating an assortment of policies. Included is one stating that students are not allowed out of the room on a lavatory pass for any more than four minutes. Also, "A sign-in/sign-out book should be kept by each master so that a permanent record exists of students absent, tardy, or given a pass to leave." This ensures that there is a permanent record of



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

where you are every minute, except during the twenty-three between classes. And it is, essentially, the administration intruding on the manner in which each master runs his or her classroom.

Four minutes is not enough to find an unlocked bathroom, wait in a line (which there often is), go to the bathroom, wash hands, and get back to class. Why, then, is four minutes the maximum time allowed? It may be that a student abused the trust of the administration by wandering the halls instead of going to the bathroom, or by spending an excessive amount of time out of class, but this should not be a reason for the administration to punish every student by enforcing this policy.

Mr. Flynn's notice went on to say that taking a test or talking to a teacher is no longer a valid excuse for being late to your next class. "I don't think it's fair for a kid to get in trouble for being late to a class when it isn't actually their fault at all, and it wasn't their choice to stay late," said Julia Ryan (V) in response to this policy. Ryan is right. Being one or two minutes late to a class does not mean missing work, because it takes a couple of minutes for the teacher and students to settle down and prepare for class. The policy leaves only after school to discuss anything with teachers, since the notice also states that students are allowed to leave the room during homeroom for only a very few reasons. And students can rarely go before school, as we cannot be in the halls until 7:25 a.m. If a teacher chooses not to enforce these polices they will not have much of an impact. The policies themselves aren't the biggest issue—the message they send to the student body is. To students who already feel that Boston Latin School is too strict and uptight, these policies just prove that the administration does not trust students. Many students have commented a bit melodramatically that these new policies just reinforce the notion that they are going to school in a "prison." Policies like these create a negative atmosphere at the school and merely exacerbate the tension and bad feelings that already exist between students and administration.

The Environment's New Enemy

Global warming and pollution are increasing problems in the U.S. and around the world. The National Academy of Science has attributed these hazards to industrialization and the use of fossil fuels, and projects that the temperature could rise by more than ten degrees by 2100. Signs of a strain on the environment have already started to show: polar ice caps are melting, animals are increasingly placed on the endangered and at-risk list, fossil fuel resources are diminishing, and more children are born with asthma each year. Now is the time to start making significant lifestyle changes in order to prevent further troubles, but the Bush Administration is making it hard for the EPA and the science community to take action by censoring information, halting studies, gutting environmental regulations, supporting harmful laws, and assisting fossil-fuel industries.

Since his inauguration, President Bush has reversed or stunted many environmental laws and implemented new policies that have pleased major campaign contributors in the energy business. Supporters hail the $1 billion he has pledged to develop a hydrogen-powered car, but fail to mention his $55 billion subsidy to the oil industry. Not only does he spend such a small amount on alternative energy in comparison to the oil companies, but he also plans on building more nuclear-power plants for hydrogen production—thereby using more natural gas and coal—instead of using free and efficient solar and wind power. Bush has also eliminated tax benefits for Americans willing to buy hybrid cars. Furthermore, as part of his new stimulus plan he offered a $100,000 tax credit for business owners who purchase vehicles over 6,000 pounds, including large SUVs and Hummers. His charade attempts to make his policies seem beneficial to the environment when in fact most of the money will still go towards the current energy powerhouses.

In December 2001, Bush proposed over $2 billion in tax breaks and subsidies for companies such as General Electric and Texaco. During the same year his administration pardoned Koch Industries, an oil company that racked up almost $300 million in fines for releasing 90 tons of benzene, a carcinogen, and purposely hiding it from the authorities. The same company contributed almost $1 million to Bush's election campaign. In 2002, he allowed coal companies to contaminate streams by dumping mining waste, older power plants to bypass pollution control standards, and catchers of "dolphin-safe" tuna to incorporate fishing methods that could kill dolphins. Last year the administration altered the definition of carbon dioxide, the major cause of global warming, and made it a non-pollutant that would no longer be controlled by the Clean Air Act. This past May, the budget for projects in alternative energy was cut drastically, making Americans rely heavily on oil and coal. Ten thousand copies of the plan were then printed, with the expenses taken from the energy conservation budget.

The Bush Administration contains more than twenty people who have allied with or worked for energy industries. According to the NY Times, strategist Frank Luntz advised his fellow Republicans by saying, "...the scientific debate is closing [against us] but not yet closed...Therefore, you need to continue to make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate." Luntz is also responsible for the administration's use of the term "climate change" rather than "global warming" in order to pacify the public and suggest a less harsh situation. Interior Secretary Gale Norton happens to be the protégé of James Watt (famous for his comment that the Apocalypse was coming and therefore people should use up all their resources), and she has proven the old adage that the apple does not fall far from the tree. During a Senate meeting she charged that Arctic drilling has no harmful consequences and that the native caribou population would not be endangered, all contrary to what scientists had originally stated in their reports before she altered them. Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles is a former oil lobbyist and currently meets with his former clients to talk about mining and

Continued on page 9

Beyond City Limits

It has been an open secret here for years: not everyone who goes to Boston Latin School lives in Boston. Most of us think this is wrong. Few of us do anything to stop it. These people are, after all, our classmates and our friends. Whatever their opinion, few at Boston Latin would be shocked to hear that many of their fellow students hail from Somerville, Malden, Chelsea, Braintree, Wellesley, Brookline, and Revere. This news did, however, apparently come as a surprise to Mayor Thomas Menino, who, after being alerted to the situation by articles in the *Hyde Park Bulletin*, the *West Roxbury Transcript*, and the *Roslindale Bulletin*, and after receiving a few angry letters from city councilors, vowed to conduct a crackdown on non-residents attending the city's exam schools. Pointing out accurately that every seat taken by an out-of-towner is a seat no longer available to a legitimate Boston resident, he ordered the creation of an Exam School Residency Work Group, which presented its report at a December 3 meeting of the Boston School Committee.

The majority of the report's recommendations focused on "post-matriculation" solutions—that is, catching non-resident students after they have begun attending the exam schools. While many of these strategies are worth pursuing, it is important to remember that any student removed from Boston Latin in the 9th grade or after will not be replaced by a qualified Boston student. If the goal is to ensure that Boston students are not deprived of seats that are rightfully theirs, the focus should be on "pre-matriculation" solutions—on preventing residency scofflaws from enrolling in the first place. Between the time the admissions test is taken and the time students enroll in the fall, vigorous efforts should be made to expose parents who intend to commit fraud by using a relative's address, a dormitory or business address, or a completely fabricated address as their own while they and their children live in the suburbs and do not support Boston's schools with their tax dollars. As the working group's report suggested, Boston's exam schools should demand more stringent proof of residency than the easily-forged utility bill that is currently used. Multiple forms of documentation, including home purchase and sales agreements, mortgage bills, apartment lease agreements, car insurance policies and registrations, and driver's licenses or Mass ID cards should be required. Nor would random, pre-matriculation home visits be uncalled for. The report also suggested immediately expelling students caught committing residency fraud, making a notation on their transcript, and charging their families $8,000 in tuition for each year they have attended the school. Publicizing these repercussions beforehand—in the ISEE registration bulletin, on the test itself, and in the many pieces of correspondence that a student received after being accepted to an exam school—might dissuade parents from fraudulently enrolling their children in the first place.

Another suggestion that has received much attention in the past weeks is prohibiting non-residents from taking the ISEE in the first place. Currently, anyone is allowed to take the test; in order to matriculate to an exam school a student is required to provide proof of residency by July 31. Many have advocated restricting the admissions test to Boston residents only. The working group's report supported this recommendation, it has been endorsed by Mayor Menino and an editorial in the Boston Globe, and it enjoys wide support in the BLS community. "Non-residents should not be allowed to take the test. Period," says parent Phyllis Allison. This is an understandable but wrong-headed sentiment. It is unlikely that barring nonresidents from taking the test will do much to reduce fraud—if students are planning on using false addresses to attend Boston Latin, they will simply establish these false addresses a few months sooner. Prohibiting suburbanites from taking the ISEE would also mean that the prospect of attending BLS would no longer be such a lure to motivate families to move to Boston.

In order to ensure that kids from Boston, and more specifically students of the Boston Public Schools, have a fair shot at a coveted exam school seat, we must also look beyond the residency problem and examine some of the BPS' own policies that are putting their students at a disadvantage. Boston elementary schools have recently implemented a new grading system in which, instead of letter grades, students receive MCAS-style number grades ranging from 1 (failing) to 4 (advanced). According to the minutes of a recent School Parent Council meeting, "teachers have been told that '4' is an 'aspirational grade,' that is, it should not be given on a routine basis but should reflect outstanding performance, even above-grade level performance." In other words, a fifth grader who is producing excellent, but on-grade-level work (that is, not of 6th grade caliber or above) will earn only a "3." A "3" translates to a "9" on the exam schools' grade reporting system, as does a B+ from a non-BPS school. Since BLS generally looks for students with 10s, 11s, and 12s (correlating to A-'s, A's, and A+'s under a traditional grading system), and since these grades are rarely given under the new BPS system, it is significantly more difficult for public school kids to get into BLS. In the name of "education reform," an MCAS-centered grading system has been implemented, a system which actually limits students' educational opportunities. There are even indications that some Boston Public Schools may actually be discouraging their students from taking the exam school admissions test. Boston Latin School parent and BPS teacher Karen Savage recently reported on the parents' e-mail list-serve that, after encouraging her entire sixth grade homeroom to sign up for the ISEE, she was reprimanded and informed that the city cannot afford to pay for so many tests. It seems that, consciously or unconsciously, the BPS is actively decreasing its students' chances of gaining admission to the Latin School. And this is not solely the BPS's problem—it should be troubling news for every member of the Boston Latin community, and every member of the community should work to have it changed.

Forum: Op-ed

A Right to Survive

Why is it disturbing to some that a government body would announce that it might kill the world's most notorious and well-known terrorist, with voluminous amounts of innocent American and Israeli blood on his hands? Yasser Arafat has a long history of blowing up and hijacking planes and cruise ships, and murdering and maiming non-combatants for his own cynical purposes. He and his henchmen have killed and maimed defenseless men, women, and children. They have murdered judges, newspaper reporters, elected officials, labor leaders, policemen, priests, and others who have defended the values of civilized society. He and his cronies have a history of attacking the innocent and defenseless with emphasis on the young.

In an op-ed in Issue I of the Argo ("Taking the Upper Hand"), Isaac Meister draws a comparison between those who knowingly commit mass murders and those who are sent to stop them. He describes the Israeli and American response to terrorism as an "eye for an eye" when, if that were indeed so, the Israelis would be putting car bombs into Palestinian neighborhoods, using homicide bombers, and deliberately targeting Arab women and children. He blames the Israelis for tensions in the Middle East even though former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered the terrorist, Arafat, nearly everything he asked for. Arafat declined and responded with more homicide bombings.

It appears that Meister would rather see more dead Israelis than see a wall built to reduce those deaths. He acts as if the separation of Jews and Palestinians will not save both Palestinian and Jewish lives! This security barrier is critical for saving the lives of Israeli citizens. It is the job of a leader to protect his people, and Prime Minister Sharon is trying to do just that by erecting this long overdue "shield" in order to provide some peace. Separation has been used by many countries and it worked when all other ideas failed. The killing stopped on both sides, or was substantially reduced. Sure, bitterness, resentment, and hatred persisted, but the killing and violence ceased for the most part, because the "marriage" was no longer in place. There was peace--peace through separation. Peace does not neeessarily mean that both sides will end up kissing, hugging, and making nice-nice. But it does mean the elimination or reduction of violence. One has to accept that hostilities can't always be worked out in a nice way. That's why we have police, guns, armies, F-16's—and yes, fences.



BY KRISTINE XUE, IV

Meister says that the Israeli government exploits the excuse of national security. Just because the need for national security has been abused by some countries does not mean that it is not a most legitimate concern for others, especially one which is surrounded by people who wish to annihilate it and have indeed tried to do just that by starting five wars in a row (that they could not finish, even with all their migs and petrol dollars). If Israel is guilty of anything, it is of not providing enough security for its citizens who are constantly at war with those who wish them physical harm. Why does it disturb Meister that the building of a barrier will make it more difficult for the Islamic extremists to continue to slaughter Israelis? If Arafat is for peace, as he says he is, why should he oppose the building of this wall? A person who is concerned about the safety of innocent people would not have a problem with this defensive, life-saving option.

It is obscene to equate the slaughter of innocent men, women and children with the killing of ruthless terrorists. When Meister accuses Israel of being "heavy-handed" and atrocious in her response to the savage terrorists, it is tantamount to accusing a cop of brutality when he succeeds in stopping a serial killer. He cheapens the horror of the Islamic extremist terror against Israel by equating it with the Israelis who want to stop it. He throws all of it into the same negative basket. Does he not know that there is a thing called differentiation, that there is a difference between a murderer and the one who stops the murderer? Does Meister think that Israeli parents want their kids to fight in a war? Of course every Israeli wants peace. Unfortunately, the Palestinians do not. It seems that the only acceptable plan to them would be for the Israelis to give up the Jewish state entirely. Should the Israelis agree to this?

Without peace, the Israelis will have to continue fighting for the existence of their Jewish state. What should they do otherwise? Should the Israelis succumb to their enemies, and abandon the State of Israel entirely? It is infinitely better to have a homeland to ensure the survival of the Jews than to be in exile, a factor that contributed to the Holocaust. As a famous rabbi once said, "Better a Jewish state that the world despises than an Auschwitz that it loves." Prior to the founding of the present day State of Israel in 1948, what caused Arabs to mount countless pogroms against Jews in which large numbers were slaughtered over many centuries? Was it the "occupied territories?" What made them murder 67 Jews in Hebron in 1929? Was it Ariel Sharon? The settlers? Is this really only about land?

Sharon Silverman is a member of Class I.

Letter to the Editor: The Clubs Respond

To the Editor:

As the president of a cultural club I feel the need to speak on behalf of the clubs, which have been criticized in past Argo editions. The question presented at the end of the article written last year by Erin Durkin about whether clubs promote divisiveness and segregation or understanding and mutual admiration, has an obvious answer: they promote understanding and admiration. It is a given that people of a certain nationality will join a cultural club, but it is not just limited to them. People assume that because they are not of that nationality they cannot be part of the club. It is understandable that they might feel awkward at first, but it needs to be known that everybody is welcome. They have just chosen not to come.

When I joined the Cape Verdean Club in eighth grade, the president was Cape Verdean, the vice president was Nigerian, and the secretary was Asian; now, five years later, the president is Cape Verdean, the vice president is Haitian, the treasurer is Haitian, and the secretary is Dominican. Overall this club still ends up looking like a "minority club," but every year at the extracurricular fair we invite everyone to attend, without targeting a specific type of person. The Cape Verdean Club serves as a common ground for everybody to relax. It is stress-free environment where students can learn about the Cape Verdean culture through word and dance. What brings most people to the club (besides the food) is how the friendliness of the atmosphere. At the first meeting of this year, there were people standing outside the door waiting for friends who were inside, and some members went out into the hallway and asked them if they wanted to join. They gave the common response of "but we're not Cape Verdean," but the members explained to them that that majority of the club is not, and within seconds they were sitting among their peers having a good time.

TAG is known as the "Hispanic club," and not many people know that they have a significant number of members who are not of Hispanic descent at all. Last year the secretary was from Lebanon. This year TAG invited students to go on a retreat to get to know not only students from Boston Latin. but people from other schools as well. On this retreat the club had a group discussion around a campfire about what TAG means to the students and how they have benefited from being part of it. When the topic of how TAG has expanded beyond the Hispanic community was brought up, the question arose: is this a strength or a weakness? The members all came to an agreement that it is strength because everyone brings something into this community, to the point where it is not simply a club/organization, but a family-like atmosphere. TAG offers more than just annual show: it also offers tutoring, dance lessons, and many other activities. One main goal of TAG, as it started at BLS, was to give aid and support to minority students at BLS and increase graduation and college admission statistics for minorities, especially Latinos. We should rejoice rather than complain about such an honorable task: at least someone is trying to solve this problem, rather than pretend that it does not exist.

The Fashion Talent Club is often labeled as the "minority club" because the majority of the members are black or Hispanic. Although this may be true, it opens its doors to everybody, but people seem to be intimidated. One of the scenes in the show last year was compiled mostly of blacks and Hispanics but contained one Caucasian male who brought a lot of energy and ideas to the scene. He had a ton of fun and I can't remember him ever sitting alone in a corner feeling unwanted or uncomfortable. We recognize the need to reach out to all races, but it is discouraging when we make an effort and are refused; it is even offensive at times. There are people who are trying to come and support the club and break these supposed racial barriers. Chris Abramo (I), who is Caucasian, said, "Even though I might have felt a little weird at first the club members encouraged me to join and didn't make me feel excluded. In the end it's all about being with your friends and doing what you like."

Cultural organizations such as Talented and Gifted (TAG), Cape Verdean Club (CVC), Caribbean Club, Asian Students in Action (ASIA), and Desi serve a dual purpose in the school's community. First, they provide a sort-of "comfort zone" for students of a particular ethnicity, who often feel isolated and helpless in a predominantly Caucasian school. Second, they serve as an informational resource for the community as a whole (regardless of ethnicity), providing insight on aspects of a particular culture that are not taught in the courses offered at Boston Latin. If so many people believe that these clubs are segregated, they should take a stand and join one of them and break the racial boundaries that they seem to see. During summer before eighth grade Norianne Peart and I were the only non-Hispanics to join T.A.G.; now 5 years later TAG has a significant amount of other races in their summer program. If this alleged segregation bothers people so much they should do more than just complain about it, they should try to change it. First eliminate all these assumptions made about cultural clubs, second try and join a club or participate in one of their events. I doubt that people will not be welcomed.

- Sonia Lomba, I

The Argo welcomes op-eds and letters to the editor from all members of the school community. Submissions can be sent to kamcdonald @ verizon.net or impensada@aol.com. Ideas expressed are those of the individual authors and do not reflect the opinions of the Argo.

The Environment's New Enemy

Continued from page 8

drilling, even though in writing he promised the Senate that he would not contact any of these clients. With such people working in the executive branch or our government, coupled with legislators like Senator James Inhofe, who chairs the Senate's Committee on Environmental Affairs and calls global warming a hoax, it is hard to pass any environmentally protective laws.

The EPA and the seientific community have always helped identify and suggest solutions for environmental problems. Yet now, major studies are being suppressed or altered to fit the agenda of the administration. Former Utah Governor Michael Leavitt has replaced the former head of the EPA, Christine Whitman, who resigned earlier this year after repeatedly clashing with Bush because of her desire to do more to protect the environment. When Leavitt governed Utah, it was ranked the second worst state in the union for air quality and chemical pollution. He fired more than 70 scientists who opposed his environmental policies. Under the Bush Administration, EPA reports about perchlorate and mercury released into the environment are largely suppressed. Perchlorate, a chemical found in rocket fuel, is being allowed to reach and contaminate water supplies and vegetables found in stores, even though it has been linked to cancer and severe, sometimes fatal, neurological problems. The White House has asked for new laws that allow three times more mercury emissions than currently permitted under the Clean Air Act, despite the fact that the EPA has found that millions of people are being poisoned by mercury in the water. The Environmental Protection Agency is no longer allowed to operate at its full potential, and it cannot serve as an effective check on an administration dominated by allies of the polluting interests.

What the Bush Administration has done so far should not simply be an object of cheap finger pointing. It should be news enough to stir up proactive measures to stop such actions from continuing to harm the environment. Forces within the government have been rendered incapable of checking the Administration's policies. The American public needs to send the message that they will not tolerate their president's destructive policies.

Spotlight

Ivan Wong



MIKE RYAN, FINELIGHT

BY JESSICA FONG, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"You should go home and pop that pimple."

Ivan's first words to me in 10th-grade physics took me by surprise. Most people would insist you could barely see anything on your chin. But Ivan...Ivan would tell you that it's huge and to go home and stick a pin in it. That's how he is—brutally honest.

He has a reputation for being frank and unashamed of anything. In Ms. Freeman's famous identity box presentation, Ivan is remembered for saying, "I'll join clubs based on females. I mean, if this girl is attractive and I know she's into something, I'd join any club." Somehow Ivan manages to say anything he wants and get away with it. You'd think most girls would be turned off by a statement of interpretable desperation, but instead his name can be found displayed in bold letters on a few of the girls' bathroom walls.

His competitive nature shows through in his hardcore participation in athletics. He is always trying to get better, faster, and stronger. He doesn't tolerate any sign of team disunity either—every last bit of teamwork and cooperation matters to Ivan. His brutally honest side comes out when he disagrees with the way a teammate is acting. Inside school, Ivan plays on varsity basketball and volleyball. He has played on the Wolfpack freshman, junior varsity, and varsity teams. Moreover, Ivan has played on a local Chinatown basketball team outside of school since eighth grade. The Boston Hurricanes have been in tournaments across the nation and Ivan has traveled with them from New England to Canada to Las Vegas, gathering awards as he goes.

Off-season for volleyball, Ivan plays in the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and has led his team into almost undefeated victory. With a variety of different skills and a strong power hit, Ivan plays all different positions on volleyball. In Boston Latin, he stands as one of the few students to be placed straight onto a varsity team without junior varsity experience. He continues to be one of the students that concentrates his entire self into the game and does not get tired until he realizes it is over.

I remember there was a particular instance when the volleyball team played and won a game. From the bleachers, I perceived it to be a deserved victory. Instead, Ivan came out of the group huddle shaking his head and slumped down on the seat next to me. He hadn't reached his personal goal and felt the team hadn't been working together. I could tell that he would have preferred that everyone play their best and lose than just beat another team by slacking off. He explained to me that there was no point in the team being out there on the court if they weren't going to try their best. Even if they won, it was an empty win. It was these little moments about Ivan that made you understand it was more than just competition for him. Playing a game is more than just playing: it's his passion, something on which he has set his heart.

Ivan wants to be challenged: he moves in between basketball and volleyball always wanting to play harder and be tested with something new. His bragging rights extend to an assortment of medals and trophies that would make most athletes jealous, and yet you barely hear him mention his intense involvement in sports year-round. For Ivan, there is no need to brag—his reputation precedes him as a formidable player.

BLS Sports Th



BLS YEARBOOK, 1974

BY THOMAS AHMADIFAR, III
STAFF WRITER

The community of Boston Latin School prides itself on the school's illustrious history, never failing to mention the academic excellence and noteworthy accomplishments achieved since its hallowed founding in 1635. Latin's athletic history—spanning decades of world wars, the transition to coeducation, and countless championships—is indeed rich, but somehow remains hidden. In the 21st century, the glory of our past is buried in dust, unknown by many of the current students—a mystery even to the jocks themselves. Triumphs, defeats and intense rivalries did not spring up overnight. Transport yourself to the age of the old-timers, back to a time when Boston Latin School students would find themselves in a place far different from ours. They weren't accustomed to "successful" season records being defined as just short of winless. The Latin School was synonymous with athletic success. Explore the enigma. Uncover the untold history of sports at Boston Latin School...

The Golden Age

The legacy of Boston Latin sports begins with the third-oldest school rivalry in the United States. 116 years ago, in 1887, the students of Boston Latin School and Boston English High School (schools then sharing a building), met on a field and played a fierce game of football to establish which school had the most athletic prowess. We, of course, bombed the Blue. This became a feverish tradition among students, and thus the long line of historic games was started. To this day, Boston Latin has reigned supreme with a record of 67-36-14 over English. The football program was consistent for many years. In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the football team was constantly the City League champion and also competed in the state tournaments. Starting in 1949, the football team was undefeated; by 1954, it repeated this feat and won the City League championship, earning the '50s the nickname "The Golden Age" as stated in the Fall 2003 Bulletin article by Lee J. Dunn Jr. '61. In 1969, the program received another power boost by hiring an assistant coach by the name of Paul Costello, who had immediate affects in the Latin-English rivalry. That year, Latin pounded English 40-0.

The other original competitive sports were hockey, swimming, tennis, track and America's favorite pastime, baseball. Side options of crew and basketball were also available. Notable successes in these sports are the hockey team's impressive 8-1-3 record in 1928, and the baseball team's City League championship in the same year. At this point life was sweet and success was a part of every season. But then came Black Tuesday.

Depression, War, and Sex

During the Depression, sports at Boston Latin were stripped thin. With barely enough food to go around, public funding for "recreational" activities was cut short. School spirit—in the form of alumni—helped the school prevail. The hockey and tennis teams had absolutely no funding but private paychecks kept these sports alive.

The end of World War II was a time of relief and a resurgence of athletic spirit. A desire to return to normalcy ran high.





BLS YEARBOOK, 1947

Basketball emerged as a prominent sport as the team earned a 13-2 record in 1945. The tennis team, which had always struggled, went to the state playoffs. The next year, golf was added to the roster of sports. The expansion didn't stop there. In the fall of 1949, soccer and cross-country were introduced. By the 1950s the sports teams were booming. The track team sent members to the national meet in 1955, and by 1959 the golf team had won their 15th consecutive city championship. Football earned a 10-0 season record, and baseball, tennis and crew all won championship titles.

By the mid '60s, the cross-country squad was in a dominant era of its own, winning the city championship in 1964 and going on to the regional championship in 1969. By 1974 the team had grown in experience and had won four consecutive regional championships. The intensity was high for the runners, who were expected to run 10 miles a day. This carried over to the track team, which were the runners-up in the 1975 state finals. This era of success was furthered in 1973 by the addition of a new sport: wrestling.

Also in '73, Boston Latin finished third in combined sports competitions among all Division I high schools in Massachusetts, kicking at the heels of Catholic Memorial and Scituate High School. Many students felt that such a triumphant year would be impossible to top. They were proven wrong, however, as BLS dominated in 1978. The LCWB (open to interpretation, but "Last Class With Boys") of 1975 had graduated and the school was no-

SPORTS

Through The Ages

co-ed; this only made things better. Almost every team, including football, girls' volleyball, girls' swimming, cross-country, boys' swimming, golf, baseball, crew, hockey, indoor track, outdoor track, softball, and even badminton, all had winning seasons.

Who said the budget nightmare was exclusive to our generation? In 1980 there was a lack of funding for high school sports in and around Boston. Boston Latin students would not let this hold them back. Protesting and marching downtown dressed in BLS jackets, they held signs with the slogan, "Olympians have to start somewhere." Even without the funding, the sports program did go on. The soccer team had its best season yet in 1980, sporting an 11-2-3 record, getting into the state tournament, and beating the defending state champion Madison Park in the first round, only to lose to Needham in the second. The cheerleaders won the Coca-Cola spirit award and girls' and boys' swimming went undefeated along with the girls' volleyball team.



BLS YEARBOOK, 1935



BLS YEARBOOK, 1967

Move to DCL

Never knew Boston Latin School was such a powerhouse? Well, as you may have noticed, such is not the case today. The dominance of Boston Latin in the City League was over in 1983 after the state bumped us into the Dual County League. "We play against better teams now, because if we had stayed in the City League, no one would have had a chance," says John Wetherby '75. "But now we have more choices than before for different sports teams." This is true: since 1980, the number of sports teams at the Latin School has increased by 85 percent. There was no immediate shock from entering the DCL. That year, the football team went 7-2-1, the girls' cross-country team and the hockey team were the DCL champions. In 1984 and 1987, the football team also won the DCL championship. Other teams didn't fare as well. The boys' soccer team didn't win a game in the DCL until 1990.

The school never completely faltered. In 1990, Coach John Coleman won his 300th game in hockey and baseball. The wrestling team had a 17-2-1 winner, a 17-3 winner and a 16-2-1 winner. The girls' basketball team made it to the state semi-finals. In 1995, the boys' soccer team finally had a winning record, and the hockey team, which was still only boys, qualified for the state tournament for the 18th time in 19 years. A sailing team was added, but they competed with private and other prep schools. In 1998, the baseball team won the DCL, and went to the third round of the states, the girls indoor team won their third straight DCL championship, the girls' soccer team had their best season ever, and the girls' tennis team had an impressive 19-4 record. The biggest story of the late '90s, however, has to be the girls' hockey team. In 1997, it didn't take them long to become excellent, as demonstrated by their Division II State Championship victory in 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2001.

The new millennium has treated the girls better with state championships in tennis three years in a row, the track team winning the Class A championship in 2000, and girls' volleyball has dominated the DCL, claiming the title for the past couple of years.

Boston Latin is distinguished by its academic excellence—this no one can deny. Too often overlooked, however, is the school's athletic performance. Readers of the *Argo* may skim through the standings and losing records, resolving that "we suck," completely negating the great amount of talent this school does possess. The list of championships may not be as long as those of years past due to increased competition, but Boston Latin is not a name to be taken lightly in sports—even now. Olympians have to start somewhere. What better place than Boston Latin? It is a place that has proven by its outstanding past that it does foster talent and produce championships.



BLS YEARBOOK, 1947

Spotlight

Liz Tricco



MIKE RYAN, FINELIGHT

By Kerry Sullivan, I
Sports Columnist

You may identify her as "the girl that runs," but there's much more to Elizabeth Tricco than a pair of running shoes. She's got a pair of soccer cleats too. All joking aside, Liz is much more than an athlete: she's a good student, a good friend, and a good writer too. The biggest part of her, however, life is running.

Liz, a.k.a. Tricco or Triccolo, started running in the eighth grade when she joined the indoor track team. Liz had already developed a great deal of speed and endurance from playing soccer all through her childhood in the Parkway Soccer League, as well as playing junior varsity soccer for Latin in the eighth grade. Coach DaRocha of the track team quickly noticed Tricco's talent and placed her in the 600-meter race for indoor track. Many runners recognize the "600" as the most difficult middle-distance event because it requires both speed and stamina. Liz, however, embraced this challenge and quickly became one of the best runners of the "600" on the team. In outdoor track, Liz adapted her soccer skills into a prowess in hurdles, when she picked up the 300-meter hurdle race as a preferred event. Following in the footsteps of former senior and captain Maryanne Porter, Liz qualified for the State Championship meet in the 300-meter hurdle race.

In the fall of freshman year Liz returned to soccer on the Latin junior varsity squad as a forward. On the track team, however, Triccolo had already identified herself as a highly competitive varsity runner. As a freshman she continued to exhibit the dedication that has earned her a reputation for being too serious. If you talk to Liz, however, and she feels approachable, she'll tell you that while competing and winning are very important to her, she is not a robot. Liz simply doesn't waste words. Tricco feels that she can learn more from listening than from talking. She's known on the track team for giving quiet advice on individual basis, and for leadership by example.

Both seasons of track freshman year held more success for Liz. She qualified for the state championship meet both seasons, and also became a member of the 4x400 meter relay team. She racked up two more varsity letters. Sophomore year held similar results for Liz. She became the top "600" runner, and also picked up the long jump. Tricco qualified for states in her individual events during both seasons, as well as for the 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams.

As a sophomore Liz also gained a spot on the varsity girls' soccer team. Liz returned as a junior as a valuable forward. Her teammates recognized her talent and appreciated her skill, which explains why they were so mad at her when she switched to cross-country as a senior.

She became one of the top five runners on the cross-country team, and by the end of the season she was the most consistent member of the team. She constantly challenged the other runners, including myself, to keep up with her. Even though Liz has consistently qualified for the state meets in indoor and outdoor track, she still hopes to improve, and she believes that having run cross-country this year will give her the edge she needs. However, Liz has already been named a DCL Second Team All-Star. As a friend and a teammate, I am confident that all of Liz's efforts, including her Saturday and Sunday morning runs, will pay off in the seasons to come, both here at Boston Latin and in college.

WINTER SCHEDULES

Sports: 2003 - 2004

GIRLS BASKETBALL
DAY DATE OPPONENT TIME
Friday 12/12 Boston English 3:15/4:45
Tuesday 12/16 Bedford 4:00/5:30
Friday 12/19 @ Westford Academy 6:00/7:30
Tuesday 12/23 Newton South 4:00/5:30
Tuesday 12/30 Medfield 1:00/2:30
Friday 1/6 Concord Carlisle 4:00/5:30
Friday 1/9 Acton-Boxborough 6:00/7:30
Tuesday 1/13 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00/5:30
Friday 1/16 Weston 6:00/7:30
Sunday 1/18 @ Lowell 2:00/3:30
Tuesday 1/20 @ Wayland 4:00/5:30
Friday 1/23 @ Bedford 6:00/7:30
Tuesday 1/27 Westford Academy 4:00/5:30
Friday 1/30 @ Newton South 6:00/7:30
Monday 2/2 Lowell 5:00/6:30
Wednesday 2/4 @ Concord Carlisle 6:00/7:30
Wednesday 2/11 @ Acton-Boxborough 4:30/6:00
Friday 2/13 Lincoln Sudbury 6:00/7:30
Monday 2/16 @ Weston 5:00/6:30
Wednesday 2/18 Wayland 6:00/7:30

GIRLS HOCKEY
Wednesday 12/17 Westford Academy 4:30 PM Matthews
Saturday 12/20 @ Acton Boxborough/Valley Sports 7:30 PM
Tuesday 12/23 Belmont 4:30 PM Matthews
Friday 1/2 Fontbonne 9:30 AM Mathews
Saturday 1/3 @ Arlington/Summer St. 7:30 PM
Thursday 1/8 Woburn 3:30 PM S.B. MDC
Friday 1/9 @ Everett/Allied Vets 3:30 PM
Sunday 1/11 Dedham 1:45 PM Matthews
Sunday 1/18 Andover 12:15 PM Matthews
Monday 1/19 @ Westford Academy/Groton School 12:20 PM
Thursday 1/22 Acton Boxborough 5:15 PM Mathews
Saturday 1/24 @ Lincoln Sudbury/Valley Sports 8:00 PM
Sunday 1/25 @ Austin Prep/Gore St., Cambridge 5:00 PM
Saturday 1/31 Arlington 10:30 AM Matthews
Sunday 2/8 Everett 3:30 PM Matthews
Thursday 2/12 Lincoln Sudbury 6:30 PM Matthews
Saturday 2/14 @ Andover/Valley Forum, Lawrence 1:00 PM
Monday 2/16 @ Fontbonne/Shea-Quincy 4:00 PM
Wednesday 2/18 @ Canton/Metropolis 6:30 PM

BOYS HOCKEY
Wednesday 12/17 @ Bedford/Valley Sports 8:00PM
Saturday 12/20 Haverhill 12:30 PM Matthews
Tuesday 12/23 @ Westford Academy/Skate 3 7:50 PM
Friday/Saturday 12/26 –12/27 Saugus Tournament TBA
Tuesday 12/30 Marion 5:00 PM Matthews
Saturday 1/3 @ Tewksbury/ Lowell-Janice 6:00 PM
Wednesday 1/7 Concord Carlisle/BU 3:30 PM
Saturday 1/10 @ Andover/Valley Forum 1:00 PM
Wednesday 1/14 Methuen/Dexter 5:30 PM
Saturday 1/17 @ Lincoln Sudbury/NE Sports Ctr 2:10 PM
Wednesday 1/21 @ Newton South/Watertown 5:30 PM
Saturday 1/24 @ Haverhill/O'Brien Rink 6:00 PM
Thursday 1/29 Wayland 4:00 PM Matthews
Saturday 1/31 Tewksbury 12:00 PM Matthews
Wednesday 2/4 Andover 6:30 PM Matthews
Saturday 2/7 @ Methuen/Methuen HS 2:15 PM
Wednesday 2/11 Acton Boxborough 6:30 PM Matthews
Sunday 2/15 Lincoln Sudbury 2:00 PM Matthews
Monday 2/16 West Springfield 2:00 PM Matthews

JV BOYS HOCKEY
Thursday 12/18 @ Concord Carlisle 6:50 Valley Sports
Tuesday 12/23 @ Central Catholic 8 pm Ice Palace
Sunday 12/28 @ Acton Boxborough 8pm Valley Sports
Tuesday 12/30 Lincoln Sudbury 3pm Hyde Park MDC
Tuesday 1/6 @ Haverhill 5 pm Veterans Memorial
Thursday 1/8 @ Methuen 4:15 Methuen H.S.
Monday 1/19 @ Andover 8:30 Andover Academy
Friday 1/23 @ Canton 4:30 pm
Thursday 2/5 Canton 3:00 pm
Sunday 2/8 @ Lincoln Sudbury 6:30 pm NESC
Tuesday 2/10 @ Haverhill 5 pm Veteran Memorial
Tuesday 2/17 Tewksbury 3:00 Hyde Park MDC

BOYS SWIMMING
Friday 12/5 DCL Relay Carnival 4:45
Friday 12/12 Catholic Memorial 4:00
Tuesday 12/16 Dover Sherbourne/ Medway 4:00
Thursday 12/18 Weston 4:00
Tuesday 1/6 @ Concord Carlisle 3:30
Thursday 1/8 @Natick (Keefe Tech) 4:00
Tuesday 1/13 Wayland 4:00
Friday 1/16 @ Belmont H.S. 4:00
Tuesday 1/20 @Newton South 4:30
Friday 1/23 Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Tuesday 1/27 @ Holliston
Friday 1/30 @ Bedford 4:00
Tuesday 2/3 Westford Academy 4:00
Friday 2/6 Acton-Boxborough 4:00
Thursday 2/12 DCL Diving Championships
Friday 2/13 DCL Boys Swim Championships
Saturday 2/21 Boys Sectionals
Friday 2/27 Boys States
Saturday 2/28 Boys States

GIRLS/BOYS INDOOR TRACK
Day Date Opponent Time
Monday 12/15 Westford/Acton-Boxborough 5:00
Saturday 12/20 Winter Fest 9:30
Monday 12/22 South Boston 5:00
Sunday 1/4 Frosh/Soph meet 10:00
Wednesday 1/7 Newton South/Wayland 5:00
Saturday 1/10 Team Pentathlon 10:00
Monday 1/12 Charlestown 5:00
Wednesday 1/14 Lincoln Sudbury/Bishop Fenwick 5:00
Saturday 1/17 Class A Relays 10:00
Thursday 1/22 South Boston 5:00
Saturday 1/24 Newton South Inv. @ Newton S.* 10:00
Sunday 1/25 McIntyre Relays 11:00
Monday 1/26 Hyde-Park 5:00
Wednesday 1/28 Notre Dame/Weston/Bedford 5:00
Saturday 1/31 Girls Coaches Invitational 9:30
Sunday 2/1 Boys Coaches Invitational 1:00
Monday 2/2 Dorchester 5:00
Saturday 2/7 DCL Championships 12:00
Monday 2/9 Snow Date DCL
Saturday 2/14 Class A Championships TBA
Saturday 2/21 All State Championships TBA
* All meets at Reggie Lewis Center, except 1/24 @ Newton South

WRESTLING
Friday 12/12 @ Belmont w/ 4:00
Hingham New Mission
Thursday 12/18 @ Milton 5:00
Saturday 12/20 @ North Quincy 9:00
Friday 1/2 Acton Boxborough 10:00
Saturday 1/3 @ Weston w/ Westford 9:00
Academy and Newton S. Wednesday 1/7 Savio Prep 6:00
Saturday 1/10 @ Hopkington w/ 9:00
Westford Academy Wednesday 1/14 @ Whitman Hanson 6:00
Saturday 1/17 Canton Tournament 9:00
Wednesday 1/21 @ Holliston 7:00
Wednesday 1/28 Concord Carlisle 6:00
Saturday 1/31 @ New Bedford 9:00
Wednesday 2/4 Wayland 6:00
Saturday 2/7 @ Barnstable 9:00
Friday 2/13 Sectionals
Saturday 2/14 Sectionals
Friday 2/20 States
Saturday 2/21 States

We Won. Again.

By Kassie Skippier, I
Assistant Sports Editor

With information from Carl Geneus, I.

The 2003 season for the Boston Latin School football team was *supposed* to be a bad year. They lost three Dual County League All-Stars and star running back Yemi Owelewa '03. As is the Wolfpack's reputation, they have stepped up and risen to the challenge. Under the great leadership of captains Jimmy McDonough (I), Marvin Cine (I) and Robert Grueter (I), this year's relatively young team has really come together, becoming a force both on and off the field.

November 27 was one of the last autumn mornings we will see this year. After waking up to a bright Thanksgiving morning, I headed over to Harvard Stadium in my newly-acquired senior sweatshirt and a vest. It was clear that the weather was on our side. As I entered the stadium, I looked out at the mass of purple and white. As I heard the football band, along with cheers from countless students, teachers, alumni, administration, family and friends, it was also clear to me that the Wolfpack did not lack any spirit behind them.

The pep rally on Wednesday must have done the trick: the team started off strong. Andrew Laroque (II) scored the first touchdown. Chris Saunders (I) scored the second touchdown with a two-point conversion by Cine. Cine also scored the last touchdown of the half. The second half opened with English scoring on a kickoff return, making the score 20-7. Then Cine scored his second touchdown of the game, increasing the Wolfpack's lead. James Bucilla (II) scored the last touchdown of the game with yet another successful two-point conversion by Cine. The final score was a towering 35-7 with Latin, once again, coming out on top. *Sumus Primi!*

The win was certainly a group effort. McDonough, Grueter and Matt Giangregorio (I) did an amazing job on defense. Laroque and Rashad Bryant (II), until Bryant fell to an injury, had very good games as well. The offensive line, including McDonough, Paul Collins (I), JoNathan Charles (I) and Jared Prince (I), played well, enabling three different running backs to score and giving Michael Mitchell (II), the team's quarterback, great passing opportunities throughout the game. Mitchell and Cine both had their best game of the season. Cine reflected that it was the "funnest" [sic] game he had ever played at Boston Latin. "The boys played hard all game to make sure we crushed English, and I came away with a lot of good memories."



BY ROB WINIKATES, I

Aside from the Thanksgiving game, the Wolfpack had had an equally impressive season. The team has many underclassmen, who, despite their collective youth, have certainly proven their mettle. Tailback Ryan Park (II), atop the leaderboard in the DCL for points scored, joins many other juniors in an extremely successful year. The Wolfpack had a mix of good defense, pounding the ball forward with a great running game from behind, with a terrific offensive line. They were the third-best team in the DCL this season. The Wolfpack started out the season with a 3-0 record, its best start in five years (and also the total number of wins last year) and finished the season 5-6. Captain McDonough summed it up well: "It was a game and a season that I will never forget. We as a team have been through a lot and it was great to go out on top with a victory against English."

New Look: Celtics Struggle at the Start

By Adam Fleischer, III
Contributing Writer



JESSE D. GARRABRANT/GETTY IMAGES
COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CELTICS.COM

The post-Antoine Walker era is here and it has not been as smooth as the Celtics players and management had hoped when making the deal that sent the Celtics all-star forward to Dallas. Along with the Celtics captain went guard Tony Delks as well, in exchange for Raef LaFrentz, Chris Mills, and Jiri Welsch. The two players were traded on October 20, just one week before the official season began. Walker and Delks had both been crucial members of the team for the past several years until Danny Ainge became the head of basketball operations for the team. During the off-season, some people thought that Walker would become a casualty of the new management. Not only would the Celtics lose Walker's leadership skills and nightly triple-double threat with the trade, but the move would also mark the first time in Paul Pierce's career that he would be playing without Walker. The dynamic duo's offence had helped to spread the focus of opposing defenses in the past.

The Celtics started the season off looking sharp, attaining a 2-0 record right off the bat. Excitement was in the air and there were already high hopes for the team, which didn't seem to dwell on the loss of their all-star forward at all. Pierce was scoring, rebounding, and, above all, sharing the ball with his teammates. Vin Baker scored 15 points and grabbed five rebounds in the opener against Miami and dropped 24 points along with eight boards two nights later at Memphis. Vin Baker's ability to put up these numbers was imporant to everyone connected with the Celtics--fans, players, management, and most of all, Baker himself. It is ironic that two good games, especially the first two of the season, are not usually a reason to rejoice, but in Baker's case, there was a reason to be happy. The first reason was that just over a year ago, in July 2002, the Celtics made a trade for Baker, giving up three players. In return they got Baker, along with his huge contract, to be paid over the next five years.

When the 2002-3 season came around, Baker didn't play as well as he should have, especially considering his huge contract: he only appeared in 52 games. Even just two games of Baker showing that he was back in his previous all-star form generated some enthusiasm. The second reason, and undoubtedly the more important one, was that Baker is a recovering alcoholic—not one who stopped drinking 10 years ago, but as recently as last February. In addition to stopping drinking, Baker lost 30 pounds and got back into his best playing shape in years during the off-season. That's about where the Celtics good stories for the season end and the bad ones begin.

Since those first two wins opened the season, the team has won just five of 17 games. Pierce has been turning the ball over far too often—he ranks first in the NBA in turnovers per game and in total turnovers—and it is clear that the Celtics are missing the potent threat they had in Walker. Occasionally there are good games from an unexpected source or occasional sparks off of the bench to rally the team, but the team is in a general need of another star player. Celtics have spoiled double digit leads, including a 29-point lead at home to the Phoenix Suns on December 5, six times, allowing their opponents to come back and take the game. While that statistic is very discouraging the Celtics have suffered their 12 losses by an average of just over six points per game—not a large number at all. Although the Celtics have managed a slower start than what was hoped heading into the season, the team is still in third place in the weak Atlantic Division. There is reason to believe that this team can still compete with the best of the best at playoff time.

Kerry's Kolumn: Hot or Not?

By Kerry Sullivan I
Sports Columnist


BY MIKE RYAN, FINELIGHT

You know how I promised to get back to real journalism? Sorry to disappoint you, but yet another kolumn with fun instead of substance! Here we go...

What's HOT in sports:

The Pats! As of now, they're 11 and 2, and they just clinched the AFC East Championship! The defense gets it done, whether it's scoring like Teddy Bruschi or blocking on the one yard line like Willy McGinest. The Pats have won nine games in a row this season, which is surprising because of the lack of big name talent on the team. There is an intangible quality to this team, whether it's the Brady Factor or the fact the Belichick's soul now belongs to the devil, but the Patriots are unstoppable. And we don't even need to talk about Adam Vinitari. He's the man.

Signing Schilling! There is finally another big name pitcher in Boston! After a season filled with ups and downs in the bullpen, the Sox signed Curt Schilling to bring some quality back to Boston starting rotation. You can argue all day about Lowe and Pedro being quality, but Lowe had his career season this year, and Pedro...well, I still can't talk about Game 7. No more relying on knuckleballs with Schilling in the rotation. And with Schilling and Manager Terry Francona back together (Schilling pitched for Francona on the Phillies) Red Sox fans can anticipate an exciting season in 2004.

Go Purple! Go White! No I'm not talking the Thanksgiving game, because we all knew that our team would win. I'm talking about the Cheerleaders! These girls are on point, no matter what you think about cheerleading. After getting robbed (of the prize, not their money) at last year's City Championships, the BLS Cheerleading squad came back better than ever to win the Boston Police PAL Cheerleading Championships. Everyone has to give these girls major props for improving dramatically over past years.

What's NOT:

The Smeltics...I mean Celtics Let's face it boys and girls, the Celtics really do stink this year. Without Antoine they just can't seem to win. Paul Pierce is still awesome (by Boston standards) but basketball requires five men on the court, not one. Everyone in Boston, even the non-Antoine fans have come to realize that Raif LaFretnz and Jiri Welsh are not going to get the Celtics into the playoffs like Antoine and Paul did. Danny Ainge may be thinking about the big picture and seasons to come, but right now, the Celtics of 2003-04 are disgracing the good name that twenty-eight Hall of Famer was built for the Green and White.

Notre Lame Notre Dame's football program—made famous by the likes of Knute Rockne, the Gipper, the Four Horsemen, and Rudy—hasn't been playing up to snuff this year. Tryone Willingham had a good team last year that started out by winning eight games before dropping to Boston College, and won a total of ten out of thirteen games. This year, Notre Dame hasn't even been worth watching. The Fighting Irish managed to limp to a disappointing five and seven finish, losing its last game to Syracuse by twenty-six points.

Mia and Nomar The Red Sox make it to the playoffs and where is Nomar? Celebrating with his teammates? Sharing in the team bond of shaved heads? Oh no, Mr. Mia was off watching his fiancé play soccer, and he was too worried about his wedding pictures to cut his hair. Nomar in the post-season was almost as disappointing as losing Game 7 to the Yankees. If they had just scheduled the wedding for say...JANUARY, maybe Nomar would be wearing a World Series Ring AND a wedding ring!

Mere Fantasy? Think Again.

By Carl Geneus, I
Contributinhg Writer

You sit in front of your computer thinking, "Should I start the Patriot defense or the Carolina defense?" Or, conflicted, you try to decide over who's going to be your starting running back, Ahman Green or Ricky Williams? The choices seem endless; serious thought and comparison of statistics is required. How to decide whether to draft a big man for your fantasy basketball team or a point guard? As one devout player, Paul Enos (I) put it, " I love it. It's addictive. I spend every Sunday running back and forth between my tv and computer, checking the fantasy scores. I've lost friends and gained enemies, all in the name of fantasy football."

These are some of many decisions one faces in the world of fantasy sports. This phenomenon is a game that now has around 33 million people playing it around the world. Fantasy sports is becoming so popular because there are so many different types of sports that can be played. Hockey, golf, soccer, baseball, basketball, and football can all be played online. Almost all the major sports watched by fans are now fantasy sports. The whole point of these games is to allow the average fan to be, in some ways, an owner of a franchise. They get to draft players onto a team they created themselves.



BY STACY PHILIPS, II

From there they compete with other people around to world to see who will come out in first place. The other good part about fantasy sports is that people can create their own league to play against their friends. That helps create a greater competitive nature because people can compete against each other, always wanting to be the one coming out on top. The competitive nature one feels playing fantasy sport is as if they are playing a one-on-one game of basketball. Or, when you're up at bat in the bottom of the ninth with two outs and the winning run on third base. Andrew Deroma (II) makes a flowery analogy about the care and dedication required to create and maintain a successful team, ""fantasy football is like a garden, you have to make it work for you...you have to water it and give it sunshine everyday and then and only then will it in return blossom. But if you turn youe back once just once it could fall apart in front of your eyes."

Fantasy sports are also a lot more than just drafting players because there are trades to be made, decisions on who to start that day, and if one should pick up a player that wasn't drafted and that has been doing very well. Fantasy sports are getting so big now that there are people getting paid to figure out who is a good fantasy player and who isn't. These people are now starting to appear on national shows like ESPN on a daily basis. Fantasy sports are fun games that every can enjoy and are now starting to become a major part of America society. Mark Handley-Hoar (I) eloquently sums up the appeal by saying, "While we all might not be DCL All-star in real life, fantasy football provides the common man with the opportunity to become a veritable Golden God of fantasy sporting."

Holiday Greetings

Happy Holidays to my friends and family! Love ya so much! J
-Ivy Vong

Enjoy your vacation and...Titillation **025** Somnambulation

Shout out to the seniors of Class '04! We're halfway there! Merry X-Mas to my girls: Cabezona, Cindodo, Trinigal, Camcam, Caro, S-Lo, Apsk, Gizzle, Free my "Law & Order hard ass", and the rest of my peeps.
-Zeezee '04

Seasons Greetings to all BLS students!
-Mr. Montague

Merry X-mas duckies… please don't drool on textbooks anymore plz… a yi ai yi zhu ni xin nian kuai le! *chuuu* I wub you all!
-Yi Liu

Merry Christmas to my fruits and veggies:
peaches
kiwi
papaya
n
celery

Happy Holidays to all my friends! =] We should all hang out sometime… just like back in those days… good times, good times…
-Margaret Lam

Merry Christmas to all my friends! Catch up on your sleep over the holiday break. peace xoxo
-Lina Zhong

Merry Christmas to:
The Girls V-ball team
Brighton Boys
Anne Wu, Nancy Wong,
Le Nguyen, Susan Ma
From, Wendy L.

To All My Friends,
Happy Holidays! FINALLY vacation is here, so enjoy it! But don't spend ALL of it relaxing and playing games. Like SC! STUDY!
~Vikki

Happy Holidays!
Hope you get lots of presents.
-Amber Cranston

MERRY CHRISTMAS IRIS!

Are you into Astronomy, Forestry, Earth Science, **Geography**, Fossils, or building robots? Do you want to build a wacky music instrument? Let your talent shine, and explore new interests! Come to 329 Thursday to see what Sci Olympiad is all about!
Or talk to Yuanjian Li 132, Will Phan 136

This is Hung from room 232 shoutin' out to all friends in room 232 and Mrs. Green a happy Merry Christmas and a happy new year….Chea?

Lalalala
HEHEHEHE
Le Nguyen

The Argo Wish List: more snow days, more sleep, and happy holidays to all!

Cryptic Warning

By Catherine Moran, I
Conributing Writer

"It's a message in blood, it's your cryptic warning..." With these lyrics from a Pantera song, the name *Cryptic Warning* was born. Dave Davidson, Phil Dubois-Coyne and Anthony Buda (I) make up this "outsider" metal group. Buda is the only member of *Cryptic Warning* who is still a student at Boston Latin School. Davidson attends Boston Arts Academy and Dubois-Coyne attends Beacon High School.

Davidson, Dubois-Coyne, and Buda met in eighth grade at Boston Latin. "We were friends of friends, but...it all began with the band," says Buda of the boys' relationship before the band. In that year they discovered they all had the same love for music. Although he has played the guitar since age 10, Buda plays bass in the group because "there wasn't any point in having two guitar players when one of them was so far behind...I took up bass..." Davidson is the lead vocalist and guitarist, Buda doubles as backup vocalist, and Dubois-Coyne is *Cryptic Warning*'s drummer.

To those who do not listen to metal, "our music is just noise anyways," Buda remarks. Well, then how did this "noise" evolve to such a serious level? Practice. These boys crank it out every Saturday, from 1 to 7 p.m. They have never missed a practice during the entire five years they have been together. And, as if six hours every Saturday were not enough, the guys have extra practices every Tuesday after school, because they have been booking more shows recently. *Cryptic Warning* started out playing in Phil's dining room, but they have relocated to the cleaned-up basement.

"We had the asbestos removed, bought a dehumidifier, [and] scrubbed the walls. [We] made it nice and moved all our equipment." They made it their own. Now practice is uninterrupted by anyone other than those who play in *Cryptic Warning*. But it is not all work and no play. "Sometimes we'll be like, let's watch a movie..."



COURTESY OF CRYPTIC WARNING

Are the boys really close? "We're really connected with each other, [but] I don't spend time with them outside of the band. I consider them to be good friends, but I'm balancing so many things I don't have much time for a social life. I talk to Dave three or four nights a week, like a little 12-year-old girl."

Davidson is "the idea man" and musically gifted, taking classes at the Berklee School of Music while still attending Boston Arts Academy. BAA offered guitar, and so he left BLS. "Dave's great—he has a lot of presence and charisma onstage." After failing out of Boston Latin in the eighth grade, Dubois-Coyne went to BAA, advancing straight into the ninth grade. "Phil's a character," Buda chuckles. At the beginning of tenth grade Dubois-Coyne dropped out of BAA but, with his mother's encouragement, went back to school. He now attends Beacon High School.

At this stage in the band's career, everything rests on exposure. As long as there is an offer, the boys will play. As for performing, Buda says, "It's just playing your heart out every time: feeling like you want to collapse after you play is the best way to do it." You never know who is watching. How does one get a gig? "Maybe you're talking to some guy at a show...and he'll ask you to play at another show...If you know the right message boards to post on, people are going to find out about your show..." Shows can fall through at any time, however, and for any reason. "We play whatever we can get... It's hard, because people are so unreliable...We'll be really excited, 'Oh, we got a new show!' Great, let's put the information on the site, confirm it, then two weeks later, 'Sorry man, it fell through.'" This is a devastating setback. "The potential for us is just waiting."

Cryptic Warning has performed at various "underground/DIY (Do It Yourself)" shows around New England, but the group's biggest accomplishments are their three demos, playing on WERS, Emerson's radio station and the oldest in the country, on the oldest radio *show* in the country, *Nasty Habits*. *Metallica* and *Slayer* also played in the same room where *Cryptic Warning* did their live set. The band also made an appearance at last year's Battle of the Bands. Katie MacDonald (I), one of the judges of the contest, recalls: "They were...what you classify as a death metal band... everyone may not like that type of music, but they played very well and they were all very talented," and they "...ended up coming out winning the judges' choice award."

Although Katie may classify the band as "death metal," Buda does not speak of the music that way. "Our style is our own, so stylized, so genre-fied we transcend a lot of genres—we take from everything, we love everything." The boys have a *Guns 'n Roses* attitude, and imitate the group —they love to have long solo sections in their songs.

As for fans, it seems young teeny-boppers are out. "Our fans are funny. They're scumbags: male and gross." This might sound a bit harsh, but Buda is sincere in his adoration. The guys understand that the fans are an important aspect of *Cryptic Warning*'s success. Buda does not hesitate to give them high praise and kudos. "They're awesome...we have a pretty good following at this point."

Cryptic Warning has a lot of faith in their talent and in one another. "The band is...the most real thing that any of us do...the most integral part of our lives...the most intense thing we do..." The group plans to stay together as long as it can: Davidson will be attending Berklee in the fall, Dubois-Coyne is living in Boston, and Buda plans to attend a college in Boston so that he can remain in the band.

To learn more about Cryptic Warning, visit their website at http://crypticwarning.com/

Love Actually Is Everywhere

By Yucong Ma, III
Staff Writer

A witty and sentimental movie starring five of England's greatest actors and actresses with numerous intertwined love stories sounds like a recipe for success, right? Not exactly, as this reporter found out when she sneaked into *Love Actually* one snowy afternoon.

Essentially, 10 love stories, ranging from unrequited love and a cuckolded wife to puppy love and a pair of newlyweds—stories that are all somehow interconnected— play out over the course of five weeks and come to a predictable climax on Christmas Eve. Director Richard Curtis packs this movie with an all-star British cast, including Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman and Kiera Knightley.

The cuckolded wife is Karen (Emma Thompson), whose husband Harry (Alan Rickman) buys his flirtatious secretary a gold necklace on a foolish whim. It is never clear whether or not they had a love affair, but Thompson's performance is moving. This witty film is also full of funny moments, as Karl Marshall plays Colin, an oversexed British boy who decides to try his luck in the States, "on Shag Highway, heading west!" Strangely enough, he returns in triumph with two American airheads hanging off his arm. Most amusing is the Prime Minister (Hugh Grant), who is struggling with his attraction to his new secretary, aptly played by Martina McCutcheon. Starting to see a trend here?

A few far-fetched scenes involve Jamie's (Colin Firth) new French-Portuguese maid (Lucia Moniz) stripping to her underwear and diving into ice-cold water to save the pages of his book. It is sweet, but hardly believable. Curtis also gets carried away at times, inserting swelling and inspirational music as well as storybook endings. Why do the men chase after the girls every time? Daniel's (Liam Neeson) son Sam (Thomas Sangster) is a congenial schoolboy in love with an American girl at school who is due to leave on Christmas Eve. Through a series of cheesy coincidences, however, he makes it past Heathrow airport police and security guards to confess his love and receive a hero's kiss. Fortunately, the fact that the pair is hardly out of primary school reduces the element of cliché.

In the end, some characters come home to a dubious future. Gratifyingly, not all receive happy endings as a Christmas gift. While a box of tissues is not necessary to go off to check out *Love Actually*, an ID or a parent, as well as an open mind, would be advisable—it is rated R for a good reason. The bottom line: it can get overly sentimental and mushy at times, but when looking for something with a few good laughs to bring out that holiday spirit, *Love Actually* will not disappoint.

Dear Santa...

What are you hoping to come your way this holiday season? Most likely, a tech toy is the high priority of anticipated goodies. If you are too old for Dear Santa lists or if you are stuck on what to get a friend or family member maybe you will find some inspiration here. Watch out, though. Many of these items do not come cheap.
Compiled by Cindy Lee & Ulrike Kraeft, II. Pictures courtesy of Google.com



Have you ever tried playing video games while talking on the phone? Well, now you can do both with a $299 Nokia N-Gage Game Deck, which not only stores game titles with MMC flash-memory cards, but can also be used to load MP3 tracks into the Real One Player.



Perhaps you recorded Martha's Home Cooking for grandma. Then you deserve the Sony DCR-DVD300 DVD Handycam Camcorder to record your own movies. With easy editing features and DVDs that can be played almost anywhere, and all for a mere $1,100, grandma can get a video from her favorite grandchild.

Have you always wondered what your dog or cat is saying to you? Now, with this new Bow-Lingual or Meow-Lingual, you can translate your pet's woofs and meows to words. It is sold at stores like Filenes and FAO Shwartz and for only $120. *

*Some scientists have tested it and have proven that it does not work. It is only a silly toy.



The Panasonic SV-AS10 D-Snap is a really cool toy, with MP3 player, digital camera and camcorder all in one. Although the pictures are not top-quality, they can have sound recorded, too. The memory card can also hold an hour of video. Hey Santa, shopping for one item is easier than shopping for three, is it not?



A&E

Spotlight
Lydia Downing



MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

By Trish Morris, I
Contributing Writer

Lydia "Leedja" Downing is what one might consider a drama freak. Lydia has been involved with Boston Latin School drama since 1998, her sixie year. Consequently, she is the longest-running member of the current drama club. On top of her commitment to our fantastic drama club, Lydia has been involved with drama since the second grade. While we were all focused on juice and busy mastering phonics, Lydia was playing the "mirror image game" in drama classes. It is due to this that she is one of this year's drama club producers.

Her drama really took off in second grade with classes at the Charlestown Working Theater. The following year she appeared in Charlestown Working Theater's *Oliver!* (note the exciting exclamation point) and *Noah's Ark* (apparently not so exciting). Fourth grade began with more classes, this time at the Longy School of Music. Fifth grade brought a plethora of acting roles to her repertoire and the end of her dance career in a Chinese dance troupe. Who knew?

Lydia took sixth grade to spend a little time out of the limelight in hopes of finding herself or something. Upon Lydia's arrival at the school in seventh grade she was immediately thrust on to the stage as Betty in *The Crucible*. In ninth and 10th grade Lydia enlisted in the technical side of four school shows, closing her sophomore year with her role as Thisbe/Flute in the Peer Players' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. During the summer following 10th grade, she was in charge of the drama program at her camp in New Hampshire. She graced the stage again in eleventh grade as Juror Four in *Twelve Angry Men* and Aunt Harriet in the award-winning play *The Dining Room*.

I learned of Lydia's passion for theater in *The Dining Room*. It is obvious in her extensive resume. Whether on stage or behind large, unattractive green flats, Lydia's devotion is apparent. It is for this reason that she was chosen to direct this year's Massachusetts High School Drama Guild's one-act play *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*. The M.H.S.D.G. demands so much of one's time and energy that it has driven many a director insane. Exhibit A (although already questionable): Adam Finnelli and Genevieve Shattow. Lydia is determined to see a school show grace the stage of the John Hancock Building once more in the final round of the Guild competition. This year she will watch the play she directed from the "reserved for directors" section in the audience.

"Leedja" has put blood, sweat and tears into the drama club for the past six years. She will receive a director's award for her play and maybe she will summon a few choice words for the Guild judge with the leather jacket, but in the end it will all have been worth it. She will take this same fervor on to college next year, where she will either double-major or minor in theater. Until she crosses that stage in June, we wish her luck with the Guild and all the best.

Holiday Concert Strikes Again

By Victoria Bartolome, II
Staff Writer

While many of us are stressing over our last anxieties for the closing term, the music department is once again preparing its two back-to-back performances filled with traditional and modern songs to bring us all into the holiday spirit. The Boston Latin School Holiday Concert is one of the year's biggest events. It has never failed to attract people to its doors and has them leave with satisfaction. Over the past couple of years there have been successful debuts from new groups—the Wolftones, the Wolfettes and the Chamber Orchestra, and all have managed to contribute a fresh new sound to the show. What will this year's concert bring?

It was only two years ago that the music department decided to split the concert into two days, with the first show for junior bands and choirs and the second for those of the upper class. Both shows, however, have their own sense of excitement and entertainment to offer. In the first show one can expect to see classic performances from the sixie and fivesie choirs, with songs such as "Winter Wonderland" and "Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights." The upper-class choirs reminisce about singing many of these in their younger days. The Junior Band plans to play some of the most popular songs usually heard at the Holiday Concert as well as other well-known Christmas tunes. Junior Strings and Repertory will be performing one song apiece, each different from those of last year's show. All should come to this first show to see what talent these youngsters have, highlighted with tints of their energetic, cute and innocent characteristics.

The second show, with its usually higher attendance, has its own surprises in store; nevertheless one can expect to see a repeat of many of the traditional performances. Senior Band will once again perform the well-loved, upbeat song "Sleigh Ride," but also has two new songs on its list. Senior Strings is planning to perform "The Nutcracker," another new song attempted this year.

On the vocal side, Concert Choir, a major highlight of the show, is planning a special encore performance along with other songs such as the not-so-well-known "Sing We Noel" and the classic "White Christmas." The equally well-liked Gospel Choir has a mix of slow and upbeat songs, also planning to incorporate a few moves to appeal to the audience's eyes. These two choirs have increased from the past year to about 90 students; the sound from them should be grand. In contrast, Show Choir, with only about 15 members, will once again manage to deliver an impressive performance full of flashy dance moves, vivaciousness and swingy tunes. There is no doubt that they will live up to this image for the concert.

As for new vocal groups, the Wolftones and the Wolfettes, with their harmonious melodies and modern songs, are an especially popular part of the program. It should be interesting to see how these groups have developed, as they are the most recent additions to the music department. Another female group, Beautiful Ladies of Soul, has also been formed. It will definitely be adding a new flavor to the show. Everyone is excited to see what this new group is all about. These three groups, with their unique styles and dynamic sounds, will be delivering the most unique performances of the night.

Both performers and viewers are looking forward to this upcoming event. The music department has been working extremely hard to prepare, and it should be a night full of fun and surprises. Mark your calendars and don't miss out!

Breaking the DaVinci Code

By Kira Sargent, III
Contributing Writer

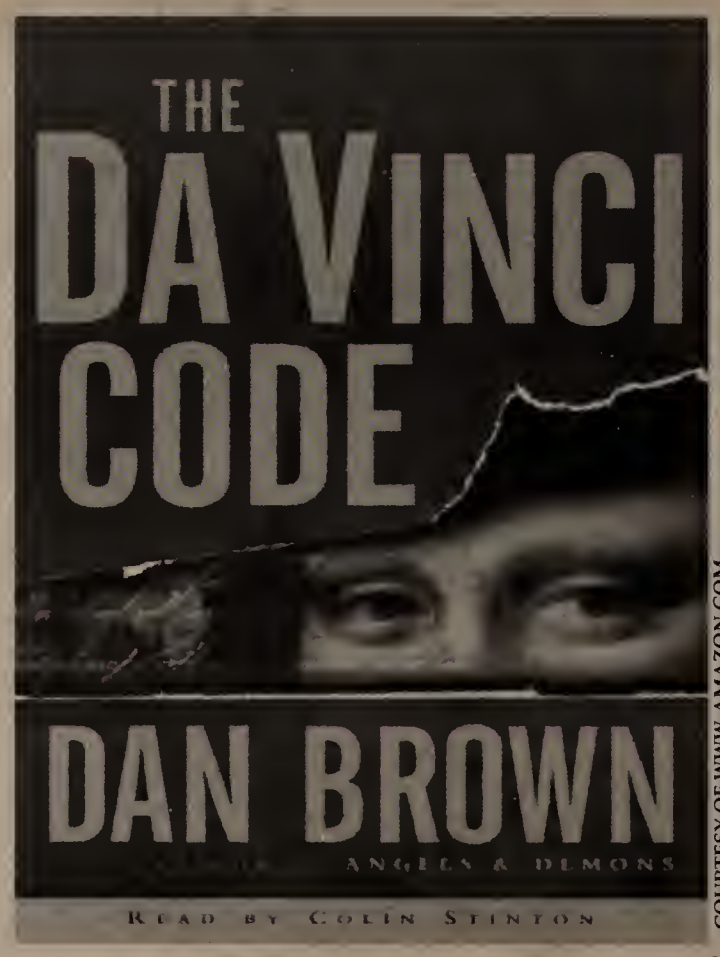
Sticking to the title, this new novel by Dan Brown uses legends of the Holy Grail (typically thought of as the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper and also used to catch his blood when he was crucified), several famous paintings such as *The Last Supper*, and historical facts as the fabric of a modern day treasure hunt in Paris and London for the cleverly hidden "truth" of the Holy Grail.

Robert Langdon, an American symbologist from Harvard University, is giving a lecture series in Paris when the head of the Louvre museum, Jacques Saunière, is found dead in the museum. He leaves a final clue that forces Langdon to choose between obedience to French authorities and pursuit of the trail left by Saunière. He is accompanied by the beautiful Sophie Neveu, a French cryptologist, and a few offbeat characters, including a murderous albino monk from the Roman Catholic conservative group Opus Dei and a contemporary knight obsessively dedicated to exposing the truth held by the Priory of Sion, a society formed to protect the "true nature" of the Holy Grail.

The book is based upon Brown's extensive research on the Priory of Sion and its supporters, Opus Dei and the Apocraphal Gospels. When Christianity began, several different belief systems were considered valid: while Aryan Christianity said that Jesus was only man, others that said he was only divine. Over hundreds of years the Roman Catholic beliefs were established as the truth—all who believed otherwise were deemed heretics and killed, typically by being burned at the stake. During the Reformation of the 16th century, the beliefs of the Catholic Church were questioned and hundreds of branches of Christianity once again developed—though not without a fight—and continue to do so even today.

Much in the same way as Catholicism adopted one set of beliefs, by the third century C.E. one set of gospels, the four by Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John, became standard. These are still used today in the New Testament of the Bible. However many others, including the Apocraphyl Gospels, were rejected. Recently, a collection of these was put together by Elaine Pagels. They show many aspects of Jesus not considered by most people, including reports of his siblings and children, the latter possibly by Mary Magdalene. These gospels do not agree with the Roman Catholic teachings, although some do with the Orthodox Church. These claims, along with the myths that Mary Magdalene escaped to the South of France with the Holy Grail, cannot be proven; therefore the validity of the Roman Catholic Church cannot seriously be questioned. But, as Langdon says in a conversation with Neveu:

"The Bible represents a fundamental guidepost for millions of people on the planet, in much the same way the Koran, Torah, and Pali Canon offer guidance to people of other religions. If you and I did up documentation that contradicted the holy stories of Islamic belief, Judaic belief, Buddhist belief, pagan belief, should we do that? Should we wave a flag and tell the Buddhists that we have proof the Buddha did not come from a lotus blossom? Or that Jesus was not born of a literal virgin birth? Those who truly understand their faiths understand the stories are metaphorical... Religious allegory has become a part of the fabric of reality. And living in that reality helps millions of people cope and be better people.... No more false than that of a mathematical cryptographer who believes in the imaginary number '_' because it helps her break codes."



COURTESY OF WWW.AMAZON.COM

One major point of *The Da Vinci Code* is to discuss the limited role of women in churches. In most pagan and polytheistic religions, women could hold positions of power equal to those of men, in that they could be priestesses. With the introduction of monotheistic religions, where God is typically thought of as a man, women lost the powerful roles they held. This attitude has been reformed in many Christian groups, but not in Catholicism, where there is now a shortage of priests. Brown is trying to make it apparent that allowing women to hold equal positions in the Catholic Church, in his opinion, would not be sacrilege and would also help the shortage.

The book also delves into the many traditions Christianity has taken from its pagan predecessors: the position of Madonna and child so central in Christian paintings issimilar to that of the Egyptian goddess Isis holding her son. The belief that saints have power over a certain aspect of the world is much like the belief in many gods. Also, the dates of certain Christian holidays, along with the rites of masses, coincide with former pagan beliefs. Even the image of the devil comes from—well, it is in the book.

While *The Da Vinci Code* is a very captivating book, the myths of the Holy Grail cannot be proven, and some of the claims Langdon makes about the symbolic meaning of the composition of a few paintings seem far fetched. I personally enjoyed learning about Christian history without feeling as if I were being taught. Brown merely explains the story. Dr. Gerald Neary, a history master at Boston Latin School who contributed his expertise to this article, recommends *Discovery* by Thomas Hoving as a historical fiction novel that has more respect for history and is better written. Concerning *The Da Vinci Code*: "Read the book. It's fun, but the movie will be better." That's right; they're making a movie.

A&E
LISTENERS BEWARE...

By Zak Trayes-Gibson
Asst. A&E Editor

Jay-Z
The Black Album
◊◊◊◊

"I'm strong enough to carry Biggie Smalls on my back/ And the whole BK, n- holla back." Silly Hov, Biggie knew how to write. Jay-Z may not be the greatest lyricist ever, but he'll be damned if he's not the best mc of all time, as he asserts throughout his swan song LP. This desire to leave at the top of not only his game but the game seems to have made Jigga hungry enough to do more than just mail in another platinum album. He's still freestyling just about everything, but his newfound desire to impress the listener results in some of his best rhymes since Reasonable Doubt. He monopolizes the entire album for once - the only guest appearance is a hook by Pharrell - and he's much better off for it. The production on this record is just as excellent, with ridiculous beats from Timbaland, Kanye West, DJ Quik, Just Blaze, and Rick Rubin. *The Black Album* ranks among Jay-Z's best albums and it certainly gives every other mc a run for his money.



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The album is his most personal, from the autobiographical *December 4th* featuring his mother's anecdotal stories to *Moment of Clarity*, in which he makes posthumous peace with his father and admits to selling out. The prerequisite club joints are here too, in the form of *Change Clothes* and *Dirt Off Your Shoulder*, but Hova keeps them fresh and entertaining despite a sea of rap clichés. However, Jigga's agenda is made explicitly clear on the excellent *What More Can I Say* with lines like "Pound for pound I'm the best to ever come around here/ Excludin nobody." Other highlights include *99 Problems*, an old school Rick Rubin-produced banger, Lucifer, Public Service Announcement, and Threat."The only misstep here, despite the corny chorus on *Dirt Off Your Shoulder,* is Eminem's production on *Moment of Clarity*. The beat is serviceable, but it sounds more like a weak Dr. Dre beat or, even worse, a simple rehash of *Without Me.*

Jay-Z won't be gone for long – he's already said he'll do guest spots in a few years, but this record serves as a nice goodbye nonetheless.



COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Britney Spears
In the Zone
◊◊‹

Growing up isn't easy, especially for a kid like Britney. Her girl next door image got her where she is today, but its been showing serious signs of wear ever since 2001's Britney. She's made the jump into womanhood, but still falls short of the hoochie reinvention that somehow brought Christina Aguilera credibility. Britney's A&R missed the mark on this record, and her now blatant promiscuity fits her about as well as a pair of Hammer pants.

Britney's widespread appeal among teen girls and desperate guys everywhere came from her vaguely oblique lyrics that concealed promises of lust under a paper-thin veil. She's gone from "Oops I did it again" to "Passed out on the couch I'm yawning" in just two years. They grow up so fast.

"Hey Britney, you say you wanna lose control/ Come over here I got somethin' to show ya/ Sexy lady, I'd rather see you bare your soul". If only she knew how. Britney takes plenty of risks on this album, but the closest she comes to artistic development is the self-love theme song that is Touch of My Hand. Make no mistake, Britney can still make hits, but she just isn't as convincing. There are plenty of beat driven tracks that ought to please most fans, but the two required ballads come off as contrived due to her weak voice.

Indeed, its hard to tell that she's a singer on this album, as her vocals are overdubbed and tweaked within an inch of their life on just about every track. The rampant use of vocoders doesn't help much either. Britney already has her star on the walk of fame, but she comes close to the depths of self parody usually reserved for Fred Durst and David Lee Roth with lyrics like "My sex drive/ Outrageous!/ My shopping spree/ Outrageous!" Also, the guest spot on (I Got That) Boom Boom by the Ying Yang Twins is, hands down, the funniest of the year, if only bècause of how utterly lost they are on the track.

"Damn you're turning me on!" I wish I could say the same, Britney. I really do.

The Darkness
◊◊◊

The best rock album of 1985 was released in July of 2003 by a group of pasty Brits. The Darkness combines the filthy guitars of AC/DC with the vocal histrionics of Queen and Meatloaf-size bombast to create the best 80's throwback band in recent memory. It helps that they steal tricks from just about every hair metal band, but they somehow make it seem fresh. The off-key, multi-octave vocals and titles such as *Love On the Rocks With No Ice* make The Darkness seem like one big joke, but they vehemently deny accusations of both parody and tribute. These blokes have heavy metal coursing through their veins and a rock and roll mentality similar to Tenacious D, but occasionally find themselves tripping over their own enthusiasm. Even so, they distinguish themselves from the sea of unitards and hairspray with *I Believe In A Thing Called Love*, *Friday Night*, and the aforementioned *Love On the Rocks With No Ice*. *Permission to Land* has already established the band as the next big thing in Britain, but their success over here rests heavily on the shoulders of hipsters and true 80's-lovers.



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COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Missy Elliott
This Is Not a Test!
◊◊◊‹

It seems that everyone in hip-hop is busy nowadays: Jay-Z is making up for *The Blueprint 2*, Tupac is busy staying dead, and Cappadonnna is driving cabs, but Missy Elliott is the only one having fun. Missy hits the trifecta once again with *This Is Not a Test!*, her latest foray into sonic adventurism. Missy has figured out how to make a hit album every time, and follows the same blueprint used on *Miss E...So Addictive* and *Under Construction.* Wall to wall production from the best Timbaland has to offer, the funniest skits since Redman, a handful of unbearable R&B tracks, and so many ridiculous rhymes per square foot that it ought to be a fire hazard.

She has guest appearances from just about everyone from Beenie Man to the Clark Sisters, but still manages to outshine just about all of them. She talks trash about almost everyone, but her willingness to lampoon herself as well makes it all just part of the party. Missy takes pride in what other women are ashamed of, whether it be extensions on the hilarious *Let Me Fix My Weave* or extra pounds on *Pump It Up* "Love my gut, so f- a tummy tuck". The latter plays like a female *Baby Got Back* and even makes a Nelly cameo tolerable. And that's not even including *Toyz*, an ode to Missy's favorite form of love.

She improves on her slow jams with the spiritually-inclined *I'm Not Perfect*, but the heart of the matter is addressed on *Wake Up*, a cutting indictment of the hip-hop mentality. The rest of the album is just straight up, old-school emceeing, with Missy switching up her flow all over the place. She begs for a return to the spirit of the early days of hip-hop, but her fantastic aural experimentation proves she's already decades ahead of everyone else.

Spotlight

Joseph Efezokhae


BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

By Emilia Zambrano, I
Contributing Writer

If you ever want a hug (or want to feel really short), there's always a tall, preppily/ thuggishly-dressed gentleman who wears baggy pants and is ready to give out a sincere, enshrouding embrace. Sensitive and emotional, genuine and hardworking, Joseph Efezokhae is a humorous, good-looking and fun-loving member of the senior class. Joseph, aside from being vertically extreme, has music running through his veins, his ever-changing hair, and his bulging muscles (thanks to doing push-ups and formerly participating on the track team).

Joseph has been a member of the Boston Latin School String Ensemble ever since he came to the school as a B-sie. He is the sole bass player in the Senior String Ensemble, but has greatly enhanced support from the lower string section. He also has a euphonious voice, landing him in Boston Latin School's Wolftones, the *a cappella* group in which he sings as second tenor. He also sang in Spanish last year at the TAG show, and was a judge for ASIA's sing-off.

Ever in the mood for dancing? Aside from the generic hip-hop bumping and grinding, Joseph is always ready to shake into merengue or salsa. Foshizzle my nizzle! "Joseph-dawg," along with other Boston Latin compadres, is also part of the R&B/Rap group K.N.K., where he goes by the name of J-Malediction. Joseph originally began his musical career as a violinist at age eight, but soon discovered a long-lasting passion for the bass at the age of nine. He joined the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras about seven years ago and has been a member of every single one of their orchestras, growing both in musicality and maturity over the years. He has been a member of the acclaimed Senior Orchestra since eleventh grade and has traveled to Napa Valley, California with GBYSO last year.

Joseph's undeniable talent has landed him into great positions as a participant in the MMEA Southeast District Festival; he was in the first chair position in both junior and senior years. He was accepted into All-State in sophomore and junior years and has been recommended to All-State this year, for which he will audition in January. The New England Aquarium's IMAX theatre, known for its huge screen and 3-D effects has provided employment for Joseph for about a year. Joseph's paycheck goes towards the support of his exciting social and love lives.

Joseph's interest in the medical field is evident, as he plans on becoming a nursing anesthesiologist. Don't worry: he will continue to play his bass, as he hopes to join or form a band.

Extremely versatile and well-rounded, Joseph can play classical, sing modern, dance Latin and, above all, be a humble and modest guy. He told me that he was honored to be chosen as a Spotlight, even though his many talents show that he is definitely Spotlight material.

Especially sensitive to women, Joseph gave a heartwarming birthday shout along with an "I love you" to his mother before the Wolftones performed at Music Night. Aww. Oh, and girls, if you're wondering, he is single and is looking for "that right person." In the meantime, he's just been chillin'.

A&E

Fencing Club and the Princess Bride Frolick Together

By Lily Mooney, I
Staff Writer

Categories define the majority of the organizations in our school, and the said organizations tend to stick strictly to their own specific activities. The football team plays football. The drama club performs plays. The debate team argues. The *Argo* publishes and disperses the news. The jazz band gets funky. The Harry Potter book club? Well, never mind.

The fencing club, a club that most would quickly categorize as an athletic organization, is stepping out of the boundaries of the sport to do something completely different: they are going to put on a play. On January 8 at 3 p.m. and January 9 at 3 and 7 p.m.they will be performing a stage adaptation of William Goldman's movie *The Princess Bride* in the auditorium, complete with live fencing action.

When asked what motivated the club to undertake the production, vice president Joni Dames (I) was blunt: "We need money." The play is a fundraising effort on the part of the fencing club students to acquire money for badly-needed equipment. Perhaps they were skeptical of the bake sale profit margin. In any case, the club decided to attempt something a little more substantial and profitable that would also display their fencing skills to the school. *The Princess Bride*, for those unfamiliar with the movie, has several intense fencing scenes. Dames explained that when they began planning the show at the end of last year and it became time to select a play, it boiled down to a choice between a few different plays by Shakespeare and *The Princess Bride*. Shakespeare, hack that he was, was ruled out and the fencing club had their selection. It may seem odd at first that an athletic organization would elect to put on a play, but at least for the fencing club it is a surprisingly appropriate endeavor. Fencing pulls in people who are "stuck in a past era and who are a little artsy," says Dames. *The Princess Bride*, to quote a character in the movie, has "fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles"...a perfect choice for this particular club.

Dames adapted much of Goldman's screenplay by herself. Then, earlier this year, auditions were held within the club to find parts for those interested in performing the play, and actually resulted in the addition of new members drawn by the prospect of the performance. Currently they hold full company rehearsals in the auditorium twice a week, additionally devoting their Tuesdays to stage combat and choreography, done largely by the students themselves.

This was a bold move on the part of the fencing club and will definitely yield interesting results. It was not without obstacles. Dames described one anecdote of working on the play: she had had to adapt many of the more fantastical scenes of the movie to the auditorium's limitations. For example, one scene takes place in a "fire swamp" where giant tongues of fire burst forth from the ground at regular intervals. She also worked around quicksand and a number of other small fires. "There were a lot of fires we couldn't set" she explained. "But you should come see it in case we set a fire anyway."

This is definitely a must-see. What could be a better, more unusual production? Maybe this will inspire other groups to follow the fencing club's lead. Maybe one day we'll see a football team opera.

A Journey into Laramie, and an Exploration of Hatred

By Daniella Colb, IV
Contributing Writer

Anyone in the music wing after school on November 21 could tell you that it was so filled with laughter, screams and squeals of excitement that it was necessary to hold your hands over your ears to hear yourself think. Students were packed together elbow to elbow in the hallway waiting to see the opening of *The Laramie Project*. Those who weren't yelping with excitement about seeing their friends perform were desperately trying to get tickets by the entrance. The crowd was so overwhelming and enthusiastic that it was my tenacity alone that kept me from just turning around and seeing it at a later date. I got a ticket, however, and waited alongside the others. A few minutes later a woman opened the theater door, leading us into a small town in Wyoming where a 21-year-old boy had just been the victim of a hate crime.

Whatever noise had been heard outside of the black box theater was brought to an immediate halt upon entering the small town of Laramie. Once there, we met a group of young actors and writers from New York conducting interviews regarding the disturbing death of Matthew Shepard, 21, late of Laramie: he had been tied to a fence and left to die by Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, two boys near his age. The attention of the audience turned immediately to the numerous characters being interviewed, and their sometimes-"redneck" but always-profound opinions.

Several of the characters in the play were clearly intended as comic relief. For example, the crowd was rolling in the aisles as a limousine driver (James Mealey) took the stage and began to speak of how you should never mess with the gays in Wyoming, as they "will kick you in your fucking ass!" The laughter was just as thunderous as Matt Galloway, a bartender played by Dave Toro (II), took center stage and told the interviewers that he found it hard to believe that Matt had come onto anyone in the bar, as "he hadn't come onto me! Hello!" The audience appreciated these honest confessions, and the atmosphere the cast created was ideal.

However the mood turned darker as characters began to talk of the young man who had been left on the outskirts of Laramie, tied to a fence, shivering, abused and begging for his life. Many characters were interviewed regarding Matthew Shepard's death, including the boy who first discovered Matt at the fence played by Andrew Flannery (I) and the policewoman who came to bring Matt professional and medical attention, played by Sully Jereidini (II). The audience grew somber as Aaron Kriefels, the boy who had accidentally stumbled upon Matt, described how he had believed that Matt was a scarecrow upon first discovering him, with his chest heaving mechanically up and down, and his body mangled and discarded like an old toy. As the boy desperately tried to explain that there was nothing he could have done for Matt, holding back tears proved difficult. Just as painful were the assertions of the police officer, claiming that she could barely cut the ropes that bonded Matt to the fence, as they had cut so far into his flesh. These testimonials were personal and intimate as if they had been meant for each person's ears alone, and no one dared to look away for a moment.

Perhaps the most moving speech in the play was that of Dennis Shepard, played by Ben Park (III), upon being presented with the opportunity to condemn one of the boys who killed Matt to the death penalty. His words introduced unbearable irony, as they were so calmly delivered, and yet clearly filled with overwhelming pain and love. Hearts ached for Mr. Shepard as he spoke of how he wondered repeatedly of what his son could have accomplished in the world, if he simply had been allowed the chance. Mr. Shepard's hatred for McKinney was so believable and well delivered that it filled the room with an atmosphere of dread and anticipation. Everyone sat bolt upright, waiting for Mr. Shepard's next breath, next word, next movement. When he began to speak about how it was time to begin the healing process in Laramie, a huge sigh escaped from the room; it was a truly awe-inspiring moment. When leaving the theater that day, a single question filled my mind: "Why did this have to happen?" Upon my honest search for answers to this all-consuming question, I was horrified to uncover that the answer required no more than four words: "He was a homosexual." Four words, attempting to act as an excuse for the pain and suffering of an entire town. It was not only enraging, but bewildering that hatred could be so undeserved, and so merciless.

Members of the cast were as horrified as I by the hate that this play laid bare. Christina Frizzi (?), a member of the cast, says that she "couldn't believe that people could be so close-minded." Another cast member, Jessica Noseworthy (III), said that she "never thought that there were violent people like Fred Phelps and Aaron McKinney out there. it isn't as though these are made-up characters; they are all real people with real opinions." Other cast members expressed similar horror and disgust.

As was clearly stated in the director's note of the program, this production of *The Laramie Project* did not attempt nor pretend to solve hatred of homosexuals. It served as an open forum for discussion about the hate that leads to victims like Matt Shepard. It is only with such dialogue that society shall ever rid itself of blind violence.

On November 21, Boston Latin School helped begin the healing process spoken of by Dennis Shepard. On that day, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., the audience went to the fence outside of Laramie, Wyoming, where Matt Shepard lay, and cried for him.

More from Santa...

Did you make your mother breakfast even though it was not Mother's Day? Well, then you deserve a new cell phone with Palm Pilot features. This $600 Samsung SPH-i500 is only 5.1 ounces, with a color screen bright enough for a useful Palm Pilot. The battery lifetime is the same as that of a cell phone.





Going to college soon? What about a nice feather-light laptop for you? This Sharp Actius MM10 is only three-quarters of an inch thick when closed and has a built-in wireless network. It also automatically synchronizes selected files and folders for only $1,500.

Are you getting tired of how your mountain bike's full suspension weakens your ability to trudge uphill? Well, with the new Fox Brain Shock On Specialized Epic bikes, the suspension will not budge, no matter how hard you stomp on your pedals. And if you hit a rock, this $2,000-$5,000 bike will open its valve for suspension.





Hopefully, this will be available next year, so we are giving you lots of time to get us the Mitsubishi MegaView Wall VS-60XT20U 60-inch HD monitor. Everyone will be amazed at this 10.2-inch thick TV with a curved-mirror system for clarity. It will not take up much space so there is still room for your milk and cookies!

Holiday Greetings

FROM ALL OF US AT ARGO: HAPPY GENERIC WINTER HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION/WHATEVER AND AS A PRESENT FROM US TO ALL OF YOU: FREE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ARGO STAFF, FROM THE EXALTED OFFICE OF "RUNNER FOR STARBUCKS DELIGHT" TO THE NOT-SO-EXALTED OFFICE OF "LOSER IN THE CORNER". IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION. PROSPECTIVE ARGONAUTS: CONTACT: MUCHING ZHANG IN HOMEROOM 125 FOR MORE INFO.

From all of the officers of the BLS JCL:

Felicem Christi Natalem!

although 3.7 of the board is composed of Jews and atheists

JCLers, you are and have always been the best. Thanks for a great year and enjoy the break. You all deserve it.

Yeah, I bought Argo ad space (at full price, mind you) so I'm going to milk it for all it's worth.

Happy holidays to my beloved JCLers of course (but you already *read* that, right?) and all of my friends: Bora (you *better* sleep!), Kelly, Nick, Anneke, Connie (Yeah, you're an atheist. Suck it up.), Veronica, *omnes Argonautae*, and everyone else in this school who makes coming here before dawn and staying here after dusk worthwhile. You know who you are. Mom, Dad, and Jacob, I don't know how you put up with me, but I love you all the same. Go Society of Eheu!

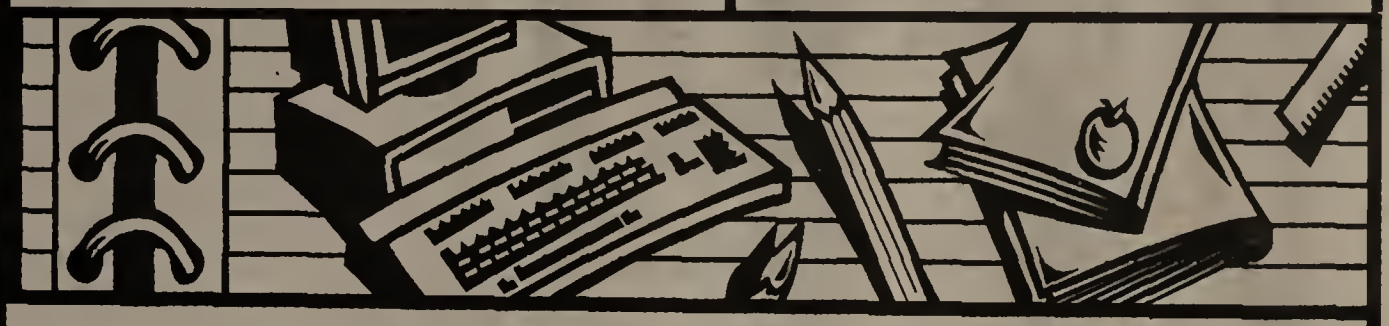
Pectore ab imo, <lj user="alliensis">

Happy Holidays from CFS

Happy Holidays to
Mr. Stengel.
Give us all A+'s for Christmas. (As in for the final average).
- Your Precalculus Honors Class

P.S. You are our **favorite teacher.**
By far.

P.P.S. Let's at least ignore that third quiz of the second term...



Education
Is The Key To Success

Roche Bros. Sudbury Farms

Happy Holidays from Computer Society
**Tuesdays Room 206 ^_^ **



Merry Christmas Everyone!!!
from **isykal.com**

Merry Christmas Christine!
Love, the All Mighty Brass Potato and Sophers!

To Mintyboy:
The best GB player ever...you will always be in our hearts.
Love,
EVERYONE <3

Merry Christmas to Lilly, Jenn, Anna, David, and Judy

A Slice of Rice, queer Asian and Asian–American Youth Group will be holding a Youth Resistance Conference on issues in the Asian and people of color community. For more info please contact Alexis Huynh.
AHuynh14@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas, Shannon

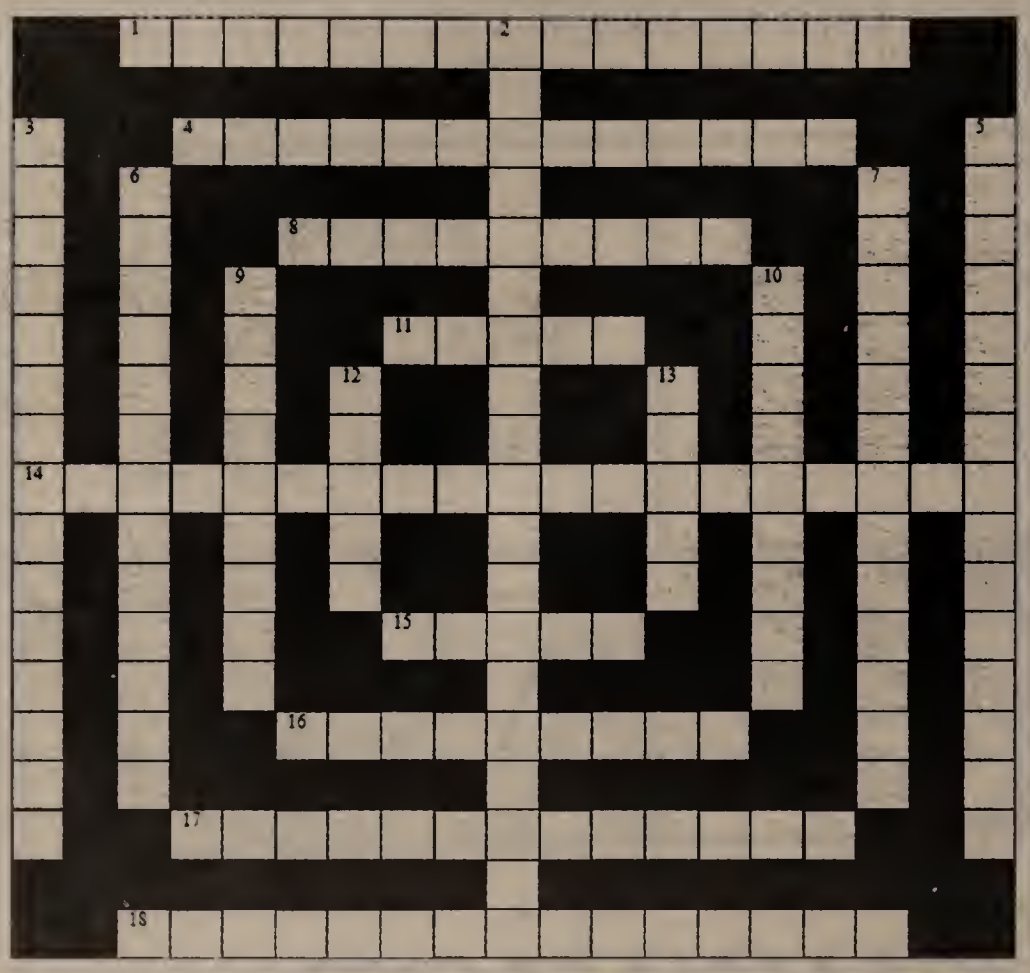
Dies Festos
Vobis Omnibus.
Dr. Cohee

Mom, Dad, and Billy
Merry Merry Merry Christmas!
Have a nice New Year!
K.K.

Meilleurs Voeux et Joyeux Noël!
Mme. Brun

Fun Page

Square Snowflake?



Across
1. Summer Yahoo pastime
4. There are 99 of these on the wall
8. What we are
11. Ctrl + V
14. Gives toys to poorer children at Christmas
15. Trapped in mud
16. Vergil's "they were dancing"
17. You might say this when someone gets older
18. "__ __ __ __ and getting caught in the rain"

Down
2. "Clothing appropriate for __ __ __ __"
3. Christmas song "Go tell __ __ __ __"
5. The Yellow __ __ Troupe
6. Superman's home
7. "Nomen mihi est Katie" in English
9. What you see on a dirty window
10. Geometric Indian
12. Gets an 'F'
13. Gives presents to nice little children

By Katie Chong, I & Yuan Zhang, I

Argo Christmas Carols

By Katie Chong
Assistant Copy Editor

Bored of the same old Christmas songs? Here are some with new lyrics to go with classic melodies.

Argo Week (to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Plowing through the night
In the MacLab atmosphere
When the time is getting tight
The deadline's almost here

Screaming editors
What a hectic day it's been
I hope we finish way before
Eviction by Mr. Flynn

Argo Week, Argo Week
Why are we still here?
The sun has set, there's no one left
The deadline's looming near

Argo Week, Argo Week,
All I hear are groans...
But layout's done, it's all been fun
So let's just all go HOME!

Here We Come a-Argoing (to the tune of "Here We Come a-Caroling")

Verse 1
Here we come a-Argoing among the Macs so blue
Here we come a-editing the articles anew...

(Chorus)
Happy waiting be to you
As we write the next issue
May you read it and enjoy it as we worked so hard
May you enjoy and smile as you read

Verse 2
We are not some publication that makes your eyes sore
But we are Latin's paper, which you have read before...

Ask the Argo: New & Improved

By Trude Raizen, II & Carolyn Bird, II
Asst. News Editor & Contributing Writer

Dear Advice Mavens,
I've been going out with this girl for two months. However, I cannot remember her name. It's past the point in our relationship where I can simply ask her. I feel like I'm in an episode of Seinfeld!
-Confused in Syracuse

Dear Confused,
You have many different options. On your next date, steal her purse and hide it in your coat. When she flips out about losing it, volunteer to go back to the restaurant to search for it. Go to the bathroom and rummage through the purse until you find some form of identification. When you return, you will not only know her name, but will also be her hero for finding her purse. A safer option is to prank-call her house looking for your grandmother and demand to know who you are talking to and what they have done with the poor old woman.

Dear Advice Mavens,
I haven't seen my friend Mitty since school got out last June. What should I do? I miss bending his skinny little arms out of shape.
-Heman Graphic

Dear Heman,
We don't mean to cause a storm of jealousy, but our friend Mitty is dead.

Dear Advice Mavens,
I am horribly superstitious and check my horoscope every day. However, I just can't bring myself to put any faith in Argo horoscopes whatsoever. Do you really channel the stars or are you making stuff up?
-Searching the Skies

Dear Searching,
Our astrologer is currently under investigation for fraud and is nowhere to be found. Perhaps this is a result of the bogus horoscopes. But maybe she's just not a Boston resident.

Dear Advice Mavens,
What should I do about my chronic procrastination?
-Sleepless at 4am

Dear Sleepless,
If we knew what to tell you, we wouldn't be sitting here at 11:58pm on Final Friday surrounded by an Argo staff flipping out over the half-finished paper. We'll tell you later.



We were outside the school for a good half-hour, huddled around one of those delightfully frigid stone benches, our faces transformed by the monitor screens from their normal healthy pastiness to a downright unearthly bluish hue. I know that later on, we were given the unforgettable image of Isaac and Ke running to the other side of the building, Ke with his laptop bouncing in his outstretched hands like an ailing infant, Isaac with the crazed look of a hunted animal—all as the rest of the Argo cheered from the bench. Similar scenes were replayed several times after we moved our base of operations to the stone wall near the front entrance in order to wirelessly connect to room 307's server (we don't think this was illegal, but our lawyers are looking into it). Trude found her true calling as a paparazzo, even going so far as to step on the sacred grass for a good shot. Little blue status bars creeping slowly across the screens held us in their thrall.

Horoscopes

By Carolyn Bird and Ariane Williams
Contributing Writer & Assistant News Editor

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)
Don't worry, your epidermis isn't really trying to kill you.
Capricorn (December 23 – January 19)
Forgetting your belt is not as bad as it may seem. You can impress girls with your problem solving skills by simply using an old piece of twine you find on the ground. Forgetting your dentures could be a problem.
Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
While we appreciate the letters, we would like to reiterate that we are not Santa. Please stop flooding our mailbox with lists and requests. But we are pretty close to the big guy, and you might want to know that he despises you.
Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
It's not stigmata. You put your hand down on a thumbtack.
Aries (March 21 – April 19)
Stuffed animals are increasingly important to you. Despite what anyone else may tell you, the bear's name is Steve and he loves you. They're just jealous.
Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
They're not lying when they say that each snowflake is unique. It's really not necessary for you to verify every single one.
Gemini (May 21 – June 21)
We know you'd like to think you're channeling Picasso, but in point of fact, you just can't draw.
Cancer (June 22 – July 22)
Someone has been stealing your hair. Count each strand before you go to sleep at night. They may be using tweezers.
Leo (July 23 – August 22)
Though you have the strange habit of wearing shorts and T-shirts year-round, it may actually be an advantage this week. Avoid wool at all costs, as the little wormy things do in fact secrete acid.
Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
I'm sorry, but I can't do this anymore. I know you thought it would be fun, an astronomer dating an astrologist, but I can't be with you. I can't shake the feeling that you love your Hubble Deep Field pictures more than you love me. I'm sorry you had to hear it this way. I guess it just...wasn't meant to be.
Libra (September 23 – October 23)
This term, when your report card comes, don't try to decode it. Your teachers aren't trying to send you a hidden message. They're actually being quite blatant.
Scorpio (October 24 – November 21)
While you may not want to encourage them too much, be nice to any Gemini you meet. Not everyone can manifest famous dead artists the way you can.

Boston Latin School
Argo

Volume XXXVI — Issue IV— January 2004

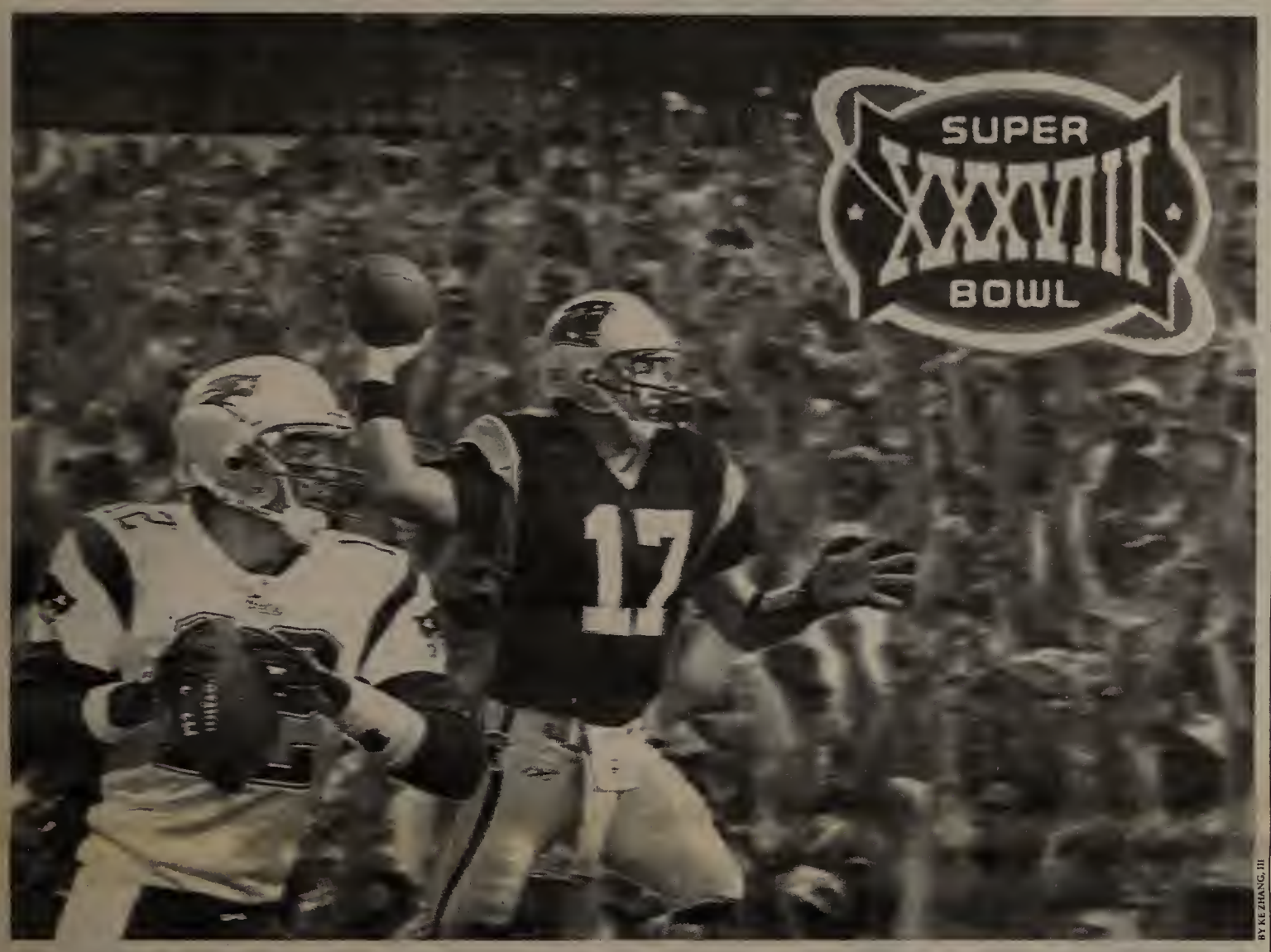
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Oscar
Extravaganza
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Patriots Headed to Houston



BY KE ZHANG, III

Residency Rages On

• By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

As the question of student residency moves from the schools to the courts, it is becoming all the more difficult to discern a resolution to an issue that daily attracts more anger and emotion. For much of last month, the Boston Public School system has been embroiled in a serious legal battle with two Boston Latin School families who claim that their children were unfairly dismissed from the school in early December. Lydia Ding and Stephen Tsai, both seventh-graders, were asked to leave Latin on December 6th. This is not an unlikely occurrence, as up to eight students have been asked to leave since the beginning of this year, and several have been in years past. However, instead of enrolling in the school districts where their parents own homes and half of the family resides, the Dings and Tsais filed a lawsuit.

Many students at Boston Latin (and the two other exam schools as well) are not city residents when they sit for the entrance exam. If applicants are accepted, they have until July 31st to submit proof of residency. Both Lydia and Andrew took the test and were accepted. Andrew's parents decided to rent an apartment in order to furnish proof of residency, and Lydia's family, unable to find a residence before the July 31st deadline, rented one bedroom of an apartment in Chinatown. Both families maintained homes in the suburbs: the Tsais in Lincoln and the Dings in Arlington. According to Marie Mercier, the attorney representing the Dings and Tsais, "all the parents did was follow the procedures as defined by the Department of Implementation."

The School Department, however, disagrees. After Andrew paid for a school activity with a check listing an Arlington address, and Lydia was discovered to share an address with another student, the school became suspicious and referred the two students to the School Department. A subsequent investigation determined that the students were not actually residing in the apartments that they listed as their residence. Two weeks after the students were dismissed, Judge Nonnie Burnes of the Suffolk Superior Court ruled that the School Department had been too hasty in its decision. According to court records, the children commuted between homes, but spent a majority of their nights in Boston. In her decision, Judge Burnes wrote, "...the children's families' mere ownership and/or maintenance of a home outside Boston is not, by itself, substantial evidence that the children do not intend to make Boston their home." But though Mercier contends that "there is no ambiguity of the law," the dispute over the letter and the spirit of the law has spread from the courtroom into neighborhoods, school and politics.

Following the recent movement to tighten restrictions on residency requirements, several Boston politicians have proposed to craft legislation that will distinguish a family's domicile from a residence. The proposed legislation will require families to register one domicile where they will file their taxes, register their car, and so on. If the legislation is passed, then a family's domicile would determine the school district for their children. According to City Councilor John Tobin, who has been instrumental in pushing for the legislation, Mayor Menino and Speaker Finneran have been very supportive of the proposed bill. The support of so many prominent political figures, he says, "bodes well for the issue." There will be a meeting this week to form a draft of the bill to file. There may even be an emergency preamble added to the bill so that it will go into effect immediately after it is passed, as early as the fall of 2004.

Tobin is careful to point out that the issue is not unique to the exam schools – there also have been reports of individuals using fraudulent addresses to use Boston special education programs. Headmaster Kelley confirmed this, adding that many non-Boston residents working in the city take advantage of Early Learning Centers so that their children are close by and have all-day care. However, quite a bit of media attention seems to have focused on Latin School. Kelley explains, "It's not about the Latin School, but the school system. We just happen to be the poster children." She attributes the intense competition for seats at Latin to its reputation for academic rigor, saying "This community is like the real world."

It is clear that there is still a long road ahead before the residency issue is resolved and a newer, more precise plan is adopted. At the January 14th school committee meeting, Superintendent Payzant presented a new definition of residency drafted by BPS Legal Advisor Peter Kelley. It states, "Temporary residence in the city of Boston, solely for the purpose of attending a Boston public school, shall not be considered residency." The proposed definition (pending action at this Wednesday's school committee meeting) "...can be applied as the school department implements the ten-point policy on residency enforcement."

In addition to new measures, Headmaster Kelley indicated that the school will be taking a stricter approach to detecting false address use. Schools will follow up on returned mail and anonymous

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BTU Battles for Contract

By Ashlyn Garry, III
Staff Writer

The tension between the Boston Teachers' Union (BTU) and the City of Boston is growing, and it is felt in the air at Boston Latin School. Every student has seen the "BTUnity" signs during the "Fairness Friday" marches outside of the school. Teachers have worn "I'll be there January 13th" pins to show their support for the union protests at Mayor Menino's State of the City Address. The real reason for the unrest, however, remains unclear to many Boston Latin students.

Ms. Kathy Devin, a Latin teacher, is a former member of the Executive Board of the BTU, and is one of the six current building representatives at Boston Latin. She explained that teachers are not protesting because of violations of the current teaching contract, but because of the fact that they do not *have* a contract. The previous agreement expired on August 31, 2003. The teachers are instead protesting for changes that can be made in the new agreement, which has not yet been reached. Devin feels that "one of the major problems is [that] teachers feel disrespected by the 1 percent pay increase [each year for three years] offered by the city." A more appropriate increase, in her opinion, would be at least 3 percent per year. This pay increase is especially necessary because the cost of living and the cost of health insurance in Boston have both risen significantly since the previous contract was made effective on September 1, 2000. If the teachers' salaries fail to match the advance of these fees, the teachers will essentially be working for less money.

The teachers have been protesting to show their unhappiness. But in the words of Richard Stutman, president of the BTU, the teachers "won't be patient forever," although Devin does not have "any idea what specific actions we will take." Protests have taken place in front of Boston Latin and other schools, and Assistant Headmaster Malcolm Flynn says that "about 85 teachers" from Boston Latin protested at the State of the City Address. But Devin adds that the fact that "the Democratic National Convention will be in Boston in summer 2004...hopefully will give Menino more incentive to settle" not only the teachers' contracts, but "many of the 32 City of Boston unions without contracts." This number includes not only the teachers of Boston, but also Boston's firefighters and police officers.

Another pressing question is how the lack of a settlement between the BTU and the city will ultimately affect students, both at Boston Latin and at other Boston Public Schools locations. Devin feels that a decision will be "positive" for the students, because "the Friday morning picketing and State of the City picketing have been part of what has been coined 'work to fairness.'" This means that "teachers will still stay and tutor students and offer other direct, uncompensated services." Teachers are willing to spend their personal, unpaid time helping students directly, but do not

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News

Food Review: Dong Khanh

By Lin Ma, I
Food Columnist

Dong Khanh
83 Harrison Ave.
(617) 426-9410 (Takeout Available)

A quaint little kitchen located on 83 Harrison Avenue in Chinatown, Dong Khanh is an economical choice with fast service for those looking for a quick bite. A small eatery boasting traditional Vietnamese looks, a classic menu, and speedy, if pushy, service. Dong Khanh offers the Vietnamese taste, but not in all its glory.

Ratings

- Class: 6
- Ambiance: 6
- Cleanliness: 7
- Service: 8
- Quality: 8
- Value: 10

Appetizer

Beware the chicken wings when selecting an appetizer: it takes at least 20 minutes before they arrive. A healthier, cheaper, and more delicious option is the classic Vietnamese Spring Rolls ($3.00). Fresh lettuce, vermicelli, bean sprouts, shrimp, and pork are wrapped in translucent rice skin, offering a delicious alternative.

Pho Sate

The ample bowl of soup, Pho Sate ($4.95), a spicy version of the famous Vietnamese noodle soup, arrived shortly after ordering. This bowl, a bang for the buck, was adorned with colorful vegetables and *tai*, Vietnamese rare steak, floating in beef broth. The soup also was filled with thick white noodles under raw vegetables, including fresh cucumber, tomato and onions. Besides these, bean sprouts, mint leaves and a slice of lime are offered as garnish. The heap of noodles was soft and cooked well in the soup. Topping it all off was a healthy pile of spices that resembled a small volcano. The soup itself was full of intense flavors and spices. A spoonful of the broth confirmed its appearance—the flavor attacks the taste buds, burning with a lively spice that does not numb the tongue, but still gives kick. The beef, once cooked in and soaked with the spice-mixed broth, was tender and filling. A wide variety of complementary condiments were available at the table. All in all, Pho Sate was a wonderful, filling classic that would be welcomed on any chilly winter day.



BY JOHNSON TRAN, II

Lemongrass Chicken "Steak"

The lemongrass chicken "steak" is actually the thigh and drumstick meat pounded to a thin slab. The dark meat is grilled until golden after being immersed in a rich and spicy lemongrass marinade. The chicken is still moist on the inside, although the surface is dry and crisp. The dish is served atop a bed of vermicelli and vegetables. Sprinkled on top of the meat is a mixture of scallions and ground peanuts. Although the taste is fine alone, it's best slathered in hoisin sauce. At only $5.75, the dish is one of the best values of the menu.



BY BURTON SHEN, II

THE DELICIOUS SPRING ROLLS

Drinks

The Sinh To Sau Rieng ($2.50) Durian Shake, a rich, delicious blend of milk, ice, sugar water, vanilla ice cream, and fresh durian, remained creamy from start to finish.

The Sinh To Dau ($2.50), a creamy, rich and flavorful strawberry shake, was an excellent companion to the hot soup. At Dong Khanh, they packed a single glass with loads of strawberries and ice cream—but not ice. Sinh To was more of a dessert than a beverage.

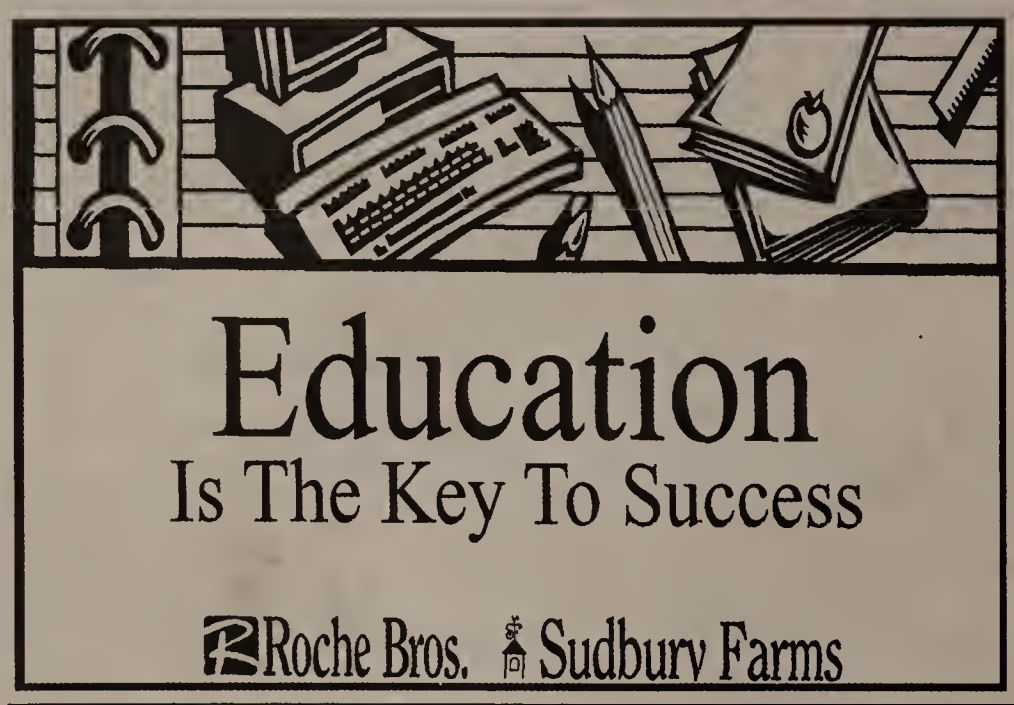
This article was compiled with the help of Burton Shen, II and Johnson Tran, II.

Residency Rages On

continued from page 1

tips, and will use other measures which "will be determined as this whole process evolves."

Attention from across the state continues to be focused on the residency issue in Boston. Mercier reports that she has been contacted by parents confronting problems similar to those of the Dings and Tsais in other towns. Parents such as these, she says are "making sacrifices, and sometimes it involves splitting up the family...at least temporarily." But soon it may be harder for such eager parents to take advantage of Boston's educational opportunities. To many, the essence of the issue is clear. When discussing the new legislation being promoted by Councilor Tobin and Speaker Finneran, Headmaster Kelley is clear about the purpose of the new policies and proposed legislation. "Boston services for Boston residents," she says. "That's really what it comes down to."



Boston Latin School
ARGO

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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BOSTON, MA 02115

Mission Statement
Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Automatic Expulsion for Non-Boston Residents?



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Yes

By Rebecca Adams, II
Staff Writer

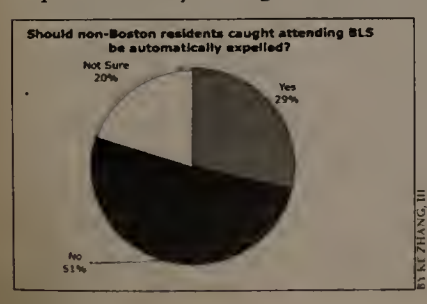
To steal something is to "take the property of another wrongfully and especially as a habitual or regular practice," (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Asking if students should be immediately expelled seems as ridiculous as asking if a person caught stealing from a clothing store should be given a couple of weeks to wear the stolen clothes. The answer is, Of course not! How will non-resident students ever learn that *stealing* seats at exam schools is wrong if the schools do not do something about it right now?

State law currently says that "every student has a right to attend a public school in the town he actually resides." Boston Latin School was created for the residents of Boston. If a non-resident enters the Latin School under a false address, not only are they lying, but they are also stealing a seat from a Boston resident, scholarship money and money from all of the Boston citizens who pay their taxes to keep the school running, and they are breaking state law. Until now, because not much was done about these non-residents, many of them were able to bypass the residency requirements without any punishment. This is wrong. Kids from the suburbs should not be allowed to steal exam school seats from legitimate Boston residents—we must remember that for every non-resident who fraudulently earns admission to Boston Latin, one deserving candidate fails to make the cut. When these non-residents are caught, they should be expelled—not out of spite, but to free up seats if they are younger and scholarship money if they are older, and to deter other suburbanites from committing the same fraud in the future.

Unfortunately, the Boston Public Schools do not have the best reputation. It lacks resources and is not considered a good school system for parents to put their children through, but many parents do so because they have no other choice—they cannot afford to send their kids to private schools. For these parents, Boston Latin School and the other exam schools represent one of the only chances for their children to get a free, high-quality education and a chance at college. To take this opportunity away from their children is wrong, and there is no reason for these parents and every other Boston resident *not* to want immediate expulsion for non-residents.

I do not think that it is important for me to remind everyone that stealing and lying are wrong: we all learned this in kindergarten. But if these reasons are not enough for you, I will give you some more. If non-residents are not expelled immediately, then they will not understand the seriousness of their offense. If schools continue to turn their heads the other way and let the lying and stealing continue, then there is no reason for the non-residents to stop it. Parents from Somerville, Quincy, and Arlington will continue sneaking their kids into Boston's exam schools because they will know they can get away with it. It may seem harsh to some to expel students immediately, but these students should have weighed the consequences before sneaking into the school.

Expulsion is the only effective answer to the problem of non-resident theft of the seats of Boston residents. There is no reason to feel sorry for the kids who will get expelled—they brought this fate upon themselves. It is too bad that the schools will have to take these measures, but it is also too bad that people think that they can get away with deceiving the Boston Public Schools.



BY KE ZHANG, III

No

By Frankline Ho, II
Staff Writer

Going to Boston Latin School has taken its toll on all of us. The stress from grades and countless all-nighters has beaten us to the extent that not one BLS student thinks of graduation day without some semblance of "Yes! No more BLS." In a way, BLS is a sieve, filtering out those who can't handle the workload by failing them, and keeping those who have proven that they can succeed despite all the work they must endure. Despite this, no one ever leaves BLS early without regret. The goal is to leave the school dressed in the infamous purple cap and gown with a diploma in your hands, not to be dragged into Mr. Haberstroh's office and told you have to leave.

It is unfair that students are immediately and discompassionately removed from Boston Latin when residency issues are uncovered. There is no warning or grace period for a student to find another school to attend. This is pointless because the spot that that student was taking up is not filled by another student. After admitting kids in the ninth grade, BLS offers no opportunity for new students to enter. When someone is kicked out, his seat remains empty, providing no benefit to anyone. A non-resident isn't causing any harm by staying in the school. Students found to be living outside of Boston shouldn't be kicked out as long as they're able to compensate the school for the time they've attended it.

Non-residents are breaking the law, but one can't really fault those who entered BLS as sixies. Parents are extremely ambitious for their children, and since BLS is a chance for a free "private-school-level" education, they will go to any lengths to attain it. All the while, the children are just following their parents' orders, not understanding the risk they're taking in coming to this school. Truly, one can't blame a twelve-year-old for that decision.

Of course, non-residents are a financial drain on the school budget—they're receiving for free the education for which the rest of us have paid taxes. But that's all the more reason to be adamant in checking residency before students are accepted into the school. That is when the correction should be made—before any harm has been done to the school, and before rectifiying the residency situation comes to mean abruptly uprooting a student who has established a meaningful connection to the BLS community.

Too often students are treated like numbers, and it is important to remember that aside from the residency issues, these students are like every one of their classmates. Expulsion doesn't have as much of an effect on underclassmen who haven't really established themselves and should be able to adapt to new surroundings if they are kicked out. It is more harsh and damaging to the upperclassmen. Persevering through the most difficult time in high school and contemplating college applications are enough to distress someone, but this doesn't even approach the stress of an expulsion from school. After adapting and maintaining stability at BLS, an upperclassman's entire high school career may be damaged in the event that he is removed and required to adjust to a completely new learning environment. In addition, in what seems like a purely punitive measure, the Mayor's Residency Working Group has proposed that the expulsion and residency issue be noted on a student's transcript, thus jeopardizing the rest of his high school career and hurting his chances to get into college. This is an unnecessarily harsh punishment which seems completely purposeless.

We all know at least a handful of students who are living outside of Boston, yet never is the administration tipped off about their false residency by another student. They are our friends and classmates. We sympathize with them because they are in essence just like us. Why kick them out when they aren't doing anything to hurt the rest of the students?

Forum Question

Should non-Boston residents caught attending Latin be automatically expelled?



Yes, because Boston Public Schools should be for Boston kids. Their parents aren't even paying to support their education. But there should be an exception for seniors.

—O'Neill Joseph, I



Definitely. If they don't live in this area, they're just wasting tax money and taking up spaces that should be for kids who do live in this area.

—Catherine Chan, II



No. It doesn't really seem fair. If you're a sixie and you get kicked out, it's reasonable. But if you've been here for a few years, you should just have to pay your way.

—Yefeng Wang, III



I don't believe they should be expelled at all if they are in Class III or higher. Their hard work and persistence should be rewarded with a diploma.

—David Alexis, IV



Yes, because its *Boston* Latin School. Suburbanites have their own schools. Only Boston kids deserve to go here.

—Kathryn Estes-Smargiassi, V



No. I think that kids who live outside Boston should be able to come to BLS. There are smart kids outside Boston who deserve a chance.

—Michael Marra, VI

PHOTOS BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Forum: Editorial

Every Child Left Behind

By Anneke Schwob, III
Staff Writer

This month is the two-year anniversary of President Bush's visit to Boston Latin School to celebrate his signing of the No Child Left Behind Act. At the time, No Child Left Behind was hailed as one of the most important legislative initiatives in recent years—a bill that would hold schools accountable for the performance of their students through a system of standardized tests. Then, Bush stood shoulder to shoulder with Senator Kennedy. Now, the Democratic presidential candidates are united in their criticism of the act with a ferocity usually reserved for Howard Dean. So, is the No Child Left Behind Act inherently flawed, or are the Democratic candidates just itching for a fight? What has gone wrong?

Actualities aside, No Child Left Behind looked good on paper, and might have provided an essential boost to the nation's failing schools, had all the conditions stipulated in the bill been realized. While Bush is still using this legislation as a feather in his cap for re-election, he has actually done very little to aid the schools that need it. His administration's budgets have failed to give states the education aid they were promised in No Child Left Behind, aid that is absolutely essential if they are to achieve the improvements for which the act calls. With self-imposed deadlines for the proposed radical changes rapidly running out, Bush must surely be counting on re-election—he will need four more years at least if he intends for No Child Left Behind to make any meaningful contribution to education under his regime.

With the economy only recently beginning to turn around from the post-9/11 recession, many state and federal programs are just now beginning to loosen their metaphorical belts after suffering massive budget cuts. No Child Left Behind, however, shows no sign of increased government funding, or even of meeting the funding quota originally mandated. The program, which was underfunded by $7.2 billion in 2003, is listed in the 2004 budget as being underfunded by $9 billion. Why is it that a program that specifically proposes to turn failing schools around by giving them the means to turn out larger, more educated graduating classes is being denied funds by the same administration that made these sweeping promises in the first place?

Indeed, since the signing of No Child Left Behind, education programs at both the state and national levels have received massive funding cuts. Just last year, Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney approved a budget which would cut more than 80 percent of funding from MCAS tutoring programs, even as passing the MCAS has become a graduation requirement. Some of these budget cuts could have been prevented, had No Child Left Behind been fully funded. The act should have taken the responsibility for picking up some of the slack—increasing its spending on education programs, not playing a game of "how-much-can-I-cut-from-my-budget."

Another offshoot of the budget cuts is the failure of the administration to carry out what was at first claimed to be the most important aspect of No Child Left Behind—the integration of more qualified teachers



BY STACEY PHILIPS, II

into failing schools by 2005. Very little has been accomplished in the way of teacher quality assessments and initiatives. Indeed, with state and federal budget cuts forcing schools to eliminate "non-essential" Arts and Advanced Placement programs, as well as many teaching positions, the doors are rapidly being shut on many qualified teachers. Even the most accomplished teachers are stretched to their very limits in packed classrooms of more than 30 students.

As the deadly combination of the recession-necessitated budget cuts and the continued irresponsibility of the Bush administration forces school officials into a financial hole, it seems the Democratic candidates may have finally found a chink in Bush's armor. However, no Democratic candidate has yet come up with a solution for this problem, or even a satisfactory plan for dealing with the huge discrepancies in the quality of education in the United States. In fact, the Democrats' finger-pointing smacks of the Bush Administration's own behavior with regard to the No Child Left Behind Act—a willingness to acknowledge that a problem exists, but not to do anything to improve matters. It's time for the Democrats to follow their accusations to their logical conclusion and propose a reasonable plan to improve high school education in this country.

Legalize the Illegals?

By Erin Durkin, I
Forum Editor

We live in a melting pot. A tossed salad, if you prefer, or a mosaic, or a beef stew. However you choose to phrase it, there is no denying that ours is a nation of immigrants. Unless you belong to the small percentage of the population that is Native American, you live in the United States today because at some point in the last four centuries, someone from Italy, Ecuador, Indonesia or Ethiopia came to this country as an immigrant.

Putting aside for a minute Emma Lazarus' injunction to "Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled massed yearning to breathe free," putting aside our history and our ideals, immigration is quite simply an economic necessity. Just as immigrants once manned the factories that powered the Industrial Revolution, immigrants today pick our crops, mop our floors, fight and die in our military, and care for our children. They do the jobs that native-born Americans are unwilling to do. They do this nation a great service. And not all of them are here legally. Every year, the government allows about 1 million people to immigrate here, and another 3 million enter illegally. They would not come if they did not know that they would be able to find jobs, would not come if they did not know they were needed.

Our current immigration policy is almost schizophrenic. Politicians on one hand slap strict limits on legal immigration and inveigh against illegals, while on the other hand knowing full well that if every illegal immigrant were rounded up and deported tomorrow, our entire economy would collapse, with the agricultural and service sectors being particularly hard hit.

The plan recently suggested by President Bush to legalize some undocumented workers takes a step towards closing the huge gap between government policy and economic reality. It is ridiculous to argue that this plan would allow illegal immigrants to leach off Americans' tax-dollars or steal Americans' jobs – legalization would be available only to individuals already gainfully employed. Employers would have to attest that, but for the immigrant's presence, they would not have been able to fill the job. What the plan *would* do is allow millions of new Americans already contributing to our economy and paying taxes to come out of the shadows. They could rent apartments, apply for driver's licenses, send their kids to school, and do so many other everyday things without fearing detection. They could speak up and demand that employers comply with minimum wage and workplace safety laws rather than being threatened with deportation whenever they try to protest or unionize. With the legal right to be in this country, they would be more likely to cooperate with census takers, public health authorities and police. They would be able to go about their lives without constantly having to look over their shoulders and fear an abrupt end to their American dream.

Certainly, there are flaws in Bush's plan. The chief one is that it is temporary – it would allow workers to gain legal status only for a period of three years. Many undocumented immigrants would not bother to come out of the shadows only to have to go back underground or leave the country in three years. Undocumented workers should be offered the opportunity to earn permanent residency rather than have such a brief sojourn in this country.

The motives behind Bush's plan remain unknown. Whether, as many allege, he produced it to curry favor with Hispanic voters has no bearing on the merits of the proposal. It is not a perfect plan, but overall it is a step in the right direction – a step towards recognizing the contributions that immigrants, legal and illegal, make to this country, and towards bringing immigration policy in sync with reality.

By Caitlin McGovern, I
Staff Writer

Bush's newest proposal on immigration seems very hypocritical to some. Yes, let's increase security across the country and create a stricter process for visas—but let us also grant a huge umbrella of amnesty to illegal immigrants who have crossed our border from Mexico and other nations. There are some pluses that come with this new proposal: better wages, more health benefits, tax revenue from newly legal immigrants, etc.—yet many feel that our security is being jeopardized.

Hundreds of immigrants die every year making that journey across the border, and yet we are encouraging them to continue making it.

In California, you can be an illegal immigrant and get a driver's license. Does this make sense when our government is endeavoring to increase "homeland security," or when Al Qaeda continues to threaten the United States with more attacks? Supporters of such legislation would argue that illegal immigrants from Mexico are not looking for a chance to be terrorists, but rather for a chance to better their lives. Yes, for most of them this legislation is overdue, and much needed. But it only takes one illegal immigrant who happens to hate America and gets through the system, one illegal immigrant who despises Americans and gets a driver's license, only one illegal immigrant who is a terrorist to destroy thousands of lives.

And what about all of those Mexicans, encouraged by the chance to earn legal status later, who are now making a mad dash for the deadly area between us and them? What exactly are we doing to protect their lives? When they get here they may get amnesty, but what are the chances that they will make it here alive? Are we not jeopardizing more lives by encouraging this treacherous trek?

And how unfair is this plan to all of those people who made it here long ago and who were sent back? Where is their amnesty?

What about other immigrants who are doing things the hard way, the legal way? How fair is it to grant illegal immigrants amnesty before those who have waited years and years to come to America?

On top of it all, the plan is considered by some Hispanic groups to be a hollow ploy for votes. It does not grant immigrants citizenship or most of the rights that go with that; it is just designed to make Bush look better and attract a lot of Hispanic votes that Republicans cannot seem to get.

In a MSNBC news report, David Ray, spokesman for the Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, said: "It's mind-boggling that in the midst of economic recovery with 9 million people jobless, President Bush would propose this. It's going to have a dire effect on wages for American families. It will cause huge displacement of American workers. We will witness how American jobs are given away right before our eyes."

I do not write this article to say that illegal immigrants who are working in the United States should not have rights, but rather to show the effects of such legislation. We are treating different immigrants in different ways—where is the equality or the impartiality? We are pushing for immigrants to take the few jobs left, when unemployment is ridiculously high. More importantly, though, hundreds of immigrants die every year making the journey across the border, and yet we are encouraging them to continue making it in order to earn President Bush support from Hispanic voters.

Palestine: Fighting for Freedom

Sara Awad

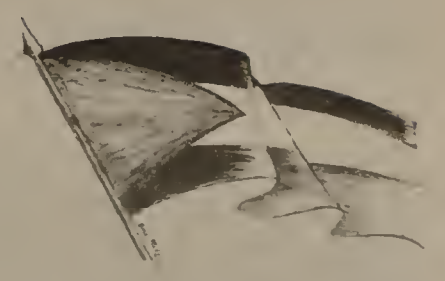
Suicide bombers. Terrorists. Hamas. These are all words that the media has instilled into our minds when we think about the turmoil taking place in the Holy Land. But how often do we hear about the horrific Israeli atrocities that cause the Palestinians to go to such extremes as blowing themselves up? How often do we hear about the women dying in childbirth at checkpoints because the Israelis refuse to let them through to get to a hospital? How often do we hear about the innocent children getting shot on their way to school? Were they a threat to the security of Israel?

In an op-ed in Issue III of the *Argo*, ("A Right to Survive"), Sharon Silverman defends the state of Israel and its right to exist, even though it happens to be in defiance of 69 U.N. resolutions. No other country in the world, member of the U.N. or not, has been so frequently condemned. Unfortunately, Silverman does not seem to understand that the Palestinians have been living in the Holy Land for over 2,000 years, and the sudden, illegal occupation by Zionist forces turned more than 6 million Palestinians into refugees. Perhaps the Jews were persecuted, but does that mean they have the right to persecute the Palestinians? How would we feel if someone came and kicked us out of our homes, the homes that have belonged to our families for generations? How would we feel if we were forced to live in unsanitary refugee camps, treated as second-class human beings and denied our inalienable human rights? How would we feel if someone took our farms and land, our only sources of income? How would we feel if we were put under curfew for days at a time? How would we feel if we saw our father or brother beaten to death because he tried to stand up for his rights as a human being? When an army, heavily equipped with Apaches, F-16s, and tanks begins shooting unarmed civilians left and right, and the Palestinians have nothing but rocks and their will to survive, is it that strange that they blow themselves up? Wouldn't we do anything in our power to try and restore what is rightfully ours?

Silverman argues in favor of erecting a "security barrier" between the Palestinians and the Israelis. If this wall is truly for security, then why isn't it being built on the Green Line, the internationally recognized border between Israel and the Palestinian territories? Why is it going to take a big chunk of the West Bank? Silverman doesn't seem to realize that the establishment of a wall categorizes all Palestinians as suicide bombers, when indeed that is not the case. As a matter of fact, it is that type of attitude that leads to the violence that exists. This wall would further degrade and dehumanize the Palestinians, making them seem like animals trapped in a zoo. They would not have the freedom to visit family members in other parts of Palestine, such as the Gaza Strip. This wall does nothing less than stand in defiance of a God-given right—the right to freedom of movement.

Silverman also claims that Arafat refused the offer made to him by Ehud Barak in the Camp David accords. However, she fails to mention that under this agreement, the Palestinians would only be given 22 percent of the disputed territory (including Israel proper, the West Bank, and Gaza)—not even a quarter. The two small chunks of land that the Palestinians would recieve are located in completely opposite ends of the country, with the West Bank in the East and the Gaza Strip in the West. So how does one get from one side to the next passing through Israel? Who wants to live in a divided nation? How would we feel if America were split in half? The Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, located in Jerusalem, was not a part of this statehood: although Palestinians would control the mosque itself, it would be located in Israeli territory, and so the Israelis would hold ultimate sovereignty over it. Under this agreement, Palestinians would have no say in international affairs, and they would not be allowed to have their own army, but only a police force. Israel would own the right to the sky above the Palestinian territory and could fly its planes over any time, and Israel would have the right to the seas. The Israelis would even be allowed to maintain their illegal settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Can you blame Arafat for refusing such a cheap offer?

Silverman says that the Israelis want peace and that the Palestinians do not. However, she fails to mention that it was the Israelis who assassinated their Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995, simply because he was going to sign a peace treaty with President Yasser Arafat. It was also the Israelis who elected Ariel Sharon to be their leader--a war criminal responsible for the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut, Lebanon, 1982, in which he murdered over 3,000 defenseless men, women, and children.



This bloodbath, which was only one out of some 34 recognized massacres that have been carried out against the Palestinian civilians, earned Sharon an indictment for war crimes by the Belgian government and was qualified by the United Nations as a genocide. Besides slaughtering thousands of Palestinians, Sharon is also responsible for the deaths of many Israelis as well. On September 28, 2000, when he and 2,000 Israeli soldiers marched into the Al-Aqsa Mosque, killing four people and desecrating the holy site, Sharon sparked the second Intifada, a movement which has led to numerous casualties on both sides. Actually, the Israelis have suffered more casualties under the leadership of Sharon than under any other leader. Yet, despite all the blood on his hands, the Israelis still chose this war criminal to represent them as their prime minister. So do the Israelis really want peace? Who are the real terrorists? Can you blame the Palestinians for just trying to get their homes back? Is it fair for them to be in exile at the expense of establishing a Jewish state? Should they abandon all hopes of having their own country and succumb to the oppressive Israeli forces? Is it honestly a crime to fight for your freedom?

Sara Awad is a member of Class I.

Letters to the Editor

As reported on the front page of this issue, the Boston Teachers' Union has been involved in a protracted contract dispute with the city. The union has sponsored picketing outside school every Friday morning and at the Mayor's recent State of the City address. The following was posted on the BLS Parents listserv in response to a question as to whether Ms. Kelley should cross the teachers' picket line to watch the Mayor make his address. In the end, Ms. Kelley did attend the address.

To the Editor:

This post of mine to the listserve, its point not understood, injured some, for which I am sorry. The point, however painful, remains: the public image of teachers is damaged by misplaced loyalties and an uncritical acquiescence to union aims. The city has no money for salary increases. This school lost some dozen staff members last year and is facing the loss of six more next year. Yet the BTU leadership harangues its members to engage in loud and visible public demands for money. Bullying forces unity, so called. A public demonstration of power took place; citizens openly reviled their elected honorable mayor and shouted threats of extortion against their own city. Some call this collective bargaining and democratic process. It injures the reputation of all Boston teachers. I wrote my post out of the very high regard I have for expert, committed, inspiring teachers. It was no name-calling, but a call for critical reflection on the results of attitudes, policies, and methods:

I certainly hope [Ms. Kelley] does [cross the picket line]. The sacrosanctity of a union picket line is bogus and needs to be questioned rationally. This is especially true in the case of public sector unions. It's a simple matter of the hierarchy of one's loyalties. For any professional teacher, the first loyalty is to the subject itself and its profession. For me, Greek, Latin, and Classical Humanities—and the pedagogy needed to pass them on to rising generations—take precedence over every other consideration, without exception or excuse. Next comes the city and people who support such a program. Third is the school at which one professes one's subject. Fourth is the department within the school to which one belongs. Union interests belong well below that, if anywhere at all. But in Boston, there is a pronounced and perverse tendency to make the union one's highest loyalty. Whether professionals of any class should even belong to a union at all is another idea worthy of close and critical scrutiny.

This is a free country. If any public-sector professional is dissatisfied with salary or conditions, he or she is always completely free to pursue other opportunities elsewhere. Picket lines tend to be manned by people who imagine that public entities owe them not only a living but increases in the standard of that living. This notion is inherently false, and essentially passive. After all, no one is a slave here.

Pardon my frankness, but we don't need another book-length contract setting out lowbrow minima. We need new attitudes, starting with the idea that important academic subjects taught by highly qualified, passionate teachers are absolutely essential for the well-being and preservation of civilization, that such subjects and such teaching make a real and positive difference in the real lives of young people. We need more professional teachers who make no distinction between work and life, who understand that their profession and their school are no place for clock-punching flatheads slavering to labor-brokering union politicos for their pay raises.

The times create an opportunity to show some nobility of spirit, some guts and backbone, a proper sense of one's priorities, a chance to realize great-heartedness. What professional teacher would now prefer a picket line and a cheap slogan-on-a-stick to these nobler realities?

Peter Cohee
Director, Department of Classics

To the Editor:

I found that Meredith Garry's front page article in Issue III of the *Argo* was a tad more opinionated than is appropriate for a supposedly objective news article. If it wasn't opinionated, at least a tinge of the author's personal view was reflected in the article. It portrayed non-residents as the darkest of all evils rather than objectively presenting both sides of the story. It's a news article, not a piece on the op-ed page. I know for sure that Garry is a great writer who is very passionate about whatever she writes. Yet I find that the article was mean-spirited and critical in its tone. It's not Garry's place to determine whether the residency situation is good or bad, regardless of how obvious it may seem. It's perfectly understandable if no one else agrees with me, but I want to offer a look at the other side, the "wrongdoers."

Certainly, non-residency is an issue that needs to be addressed, but I do feel that it should be done with compassion. In a world where people are no longer taking the time to give a helping hand or be kind to one another, it would be beneficial if the school's policy towards nonresidents could spring from compassion. There are numerous reasons why suburban parents would send their kids to a Boston exam school, known to many as "Boston's premier college preparatory institution." A bit overrated, no? Suburban schools are just as good in their curriculum as Boston Latin School, and, dare I say, sometimes even better. So why go through the hassle of forging an address or taking the risk? I recently discovered that Harvard generally takes at least 25 Latin School students every year. That sounds like a big chunk of kids when you compare it to the number of high school students competing for a spot. So it's not that ridiculous to say that some parents may think that getting their child into Boston Latin guarantees them a far better chance of getting into Harvard than if they went elsewhere. However, since Boston rent is so insanely expensive, parents move to the suburbs for a better living environment at a lower cost. So perhaps if Harvard changes their tradition, we might see a decline in the dishonesty. This is the biggest gripe I have in this case, and I'm sure there could be other solutions. I can't think of many ingenuous ideas, but perhaps rent control to make apartments in Boston affordable for families who want their kids to get a world class education at an exam school would help as well.

Essentially, maybe I'm making excuses for suburbanites, but I sympathize with them. I don't mean to attack the author of this article personally, but I feel that a reporter's job is to report, not to judge.

Nora Yang, Class I

The Argo *welcomes op-eds and letters to the editor from all members of the school community. Submissions can be sent to impensada@aol.com. Ideas expressed are those of the individual authors and do not reflect the opinions of the* Argo.

Forum

Unfair Sentencing Standards

By Ruthzee Louijeune, I
Staff Writer



A man killed his neighbor in cold blood. He fled the scene, leaving a community in absolute fear until he was caught. Another man, who has a history of mental outbursts, accidentally shot his little sister. Should these two men deserve the same sentences? No. Of course, murder is murder and it can never be legitimized, but sentences should be given out on a case-by-case basis and not decreed by power-hungry politicians on Capitol Hill.

Since the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1788, the American people have based their government on three different branches: the president and his cabinet, the United States Congress, and the federal court judges. Checks and balances were created to ensure that every branch of government does its job. Each branch is entrusted with a specific duty to the American people. Some people may argue that judges have the hardest job: the decisions that they make can set a new precedent for years to come or can shatter a law that America has held under its belt for more than 200 years. When the legislative branch meddles unjustly with the affairs of judges, it disrupts our cherished democratic process.

Federal judges are chosen on the basis of intelligence, competency and the ability to represent the American government in a court of law by making judicious and coherent decisions. They do not need to be told how to do their job. However, in the last few sessions, the United States Congress has ineffectively stepped into judicial territory by mandating that judges follow minimum sentencing guidelines. Instead of using their own judgment on a case by case basis, judges are forced to impose whatever sentence a congressman in Washington has deemed appropriate for a particular offense. What happens? Some people, including adolescents, are no longer sent to district courts and instead receive overly harsh sentences in federal courts. I watched a man receive 210-235 months in prison for possession of marijuana with intent to sell. This was his first offense. The judge in this trial would have given this man a much lighter punishment if it were not for the sentencing guidelines. Situations like these have many federal judges in a huge uproar. They see the sentencing guidelines as a slap in the face.

Last year, when Congress passed the Amber Amendment, it stealthily added provisions that reduced federal judges' discretion in sentencing criminals. Any judge who gave a sentence less than what was required by the sentencing guidelines would be reported to Congress. Congress members such as Representative Feeney (R-FL) argued that these sentencing guidelines were created in an attempt to standardize sentences throughout America, so that two people who committed the same crime would serve the same sentence.

Judges see the provisions quite differently. They realize that noåt all cases are the same. Therefore, it seems unrealistic to mandate sentences. Breaching separation of powers, the U.S. Congress has made enemies of several federal court judges. One would think that the more vocal dissenters of these guidelines would be the liberal sentence-givers, but the former prosecutor, Republican Judge John F. Keegan of the Federal District Court in Manhattan, a Reagan appointee, said, "Even I recognize that this administration has taken a step too far." Federal Court Judge John Martin, also of Manhattan, is leaving the bench after 13 years dedicated to public service on account of the negative changes in the criminal justice system. He departs with this statement: "For a judge to be deprived of the ability to consider all of the factors that go into formulating a just sentence is completely at odds with the sentencing philosophy that has been a hallmark of the American system of justice." Even Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist attacked Congress's imposition in his annual report on the federal judiciary.

Outside of constitutional problems created by the guidelines, they have proven to be impractical. Justice in sentencing requires an individualized assessment of the offender and the offense, leading to a moral judgment established by judges with wisdom, experience and skill. The guidelines forbid judges from considering personal characteristics such as the defendant's mental condition, employment history, age and family responsibilities. A remote bureaucracy that produces abstract law cannot make such decisions. Judges are being bullied into sending down harsher sentences and fear being "ratted on" if they do otherwise. If continued, the sentencing guidelines will ultimately tear down the separation of powers that exists and works in this nation. Judicial independence is the right of every judge, and the guidelines make their jobs all the more difficult and unbearable. For the first time, we are seeing normally reticent judges go public over this highly political matter. Judge Johnson, who sealed his records so that Congress could not look over his cases, is determined to hold his ground against the guidelines. "If Congress wants to make a deck of cards for the judges like they did for the bad guys in Iraq, then make me the Ace of Spades."

Oops, I'm a waste of headline space...

By Queen Arsem-O'Malley, VI
Staff Writer

What was on the front cover of every printed media source last week? a) Global warming expected by January 2006; b) Important political figures negotiating Middle East peace; c) The Yangtze River in China flooding and forcing millions of people to relocate; or d) 22-year-old singer Britney Spears' 55-hour marriage to a childhood friend? The answer: d.


COURTESY OF BRITNEY.FIRMENOVA.COM

Why does this publicity-hungry former-Mouseketeer-turned-pop-princess, who has recorded three CDs since 1999 and starred in a not-so-great movie, get so much attention and money, along with every other famous singer, actor and major league athlete? People like rap superstar Lil' Kim are paid to simply walk through a club, instead of paying to get into one like everyone else. Popular singer, actress and designer Jennifer Lopez made a cool $37 million (bling, bling) last year from sales of her movies, CDs, perfume and clothing line. All this happens while hard-working people everywhere struggle to earn enough money to feed and clothe their children. There are brave police officers and firefighters who risk their lives to save others, while not earning much money. There are teachers who deal with disobedient students, teach the people who will soon lead the world, and spend free time grading papers, tests and homework assignments; they have low pay and, in some places, no contract.

Sure, some celebrities donate 1/147,810,576 of their profits to charity, and could have same day, a some have overcome obstacles to get to where they are today. That doesn't change the fact that they really don't need their crazy amounts of money. What are they going to *do* with that much money? Most buy six houses and jewelry at $10, 000 per necklace, or have so much clothing that there are different rooms in their houses dedicated to a particular designer. The difference between the rich and famous and the middle class is huge, and growing.

The size of your salary should reflect the importance of your work. Instead, money is a reward for how popular you are. An excessive amount of current media focus is on the entertainment world, while critical events, which need the public's attention, are being neglected. About a month ago, the chairman of the commission investigating the 9/11 attacks said publicly that the attacks were *not* inevitable, and that the government prevented them. On that federal court ruled that it was unconstitutional to detain American citizens who were caught on American soil as enemy combatants, with no access to lawyers or trials. Did either of these very important events make CNN Breaking News? No, but do you know what *did*? Michael Jackson's indictment. Attention on celebrities is fine, but the media has gone way over the top. There are shows, series, even channels on TV dedicated solely to celebrity sightings, interviews, biographies and more. If the media would pay less attention to celebrities, the public would be better informed of important happenings, and the celebrities themselves, whose every movement is currently being watched and recorded, would benefit. After all, money (and fame) is the root of all evil.

Dream About a Coffee Society

By Yuan Zhang, I
Staff Writer


COURTESY OF HTTP://LEHIGHLIVE.COM

You've all seen floor masters confiscate three dollars worth of frothy, foamy coffee in the mornings—the first sip, the angry look of a teacher, the denial, and the inevitable outcome of such a predator-prey chase scene. I call it the coffee-in-the-trash-and-a-bonus-lecture scenario. This unpleasant drama occurs every morning before school starts, but do you ever wonder why people repeatedly risk getting caught with coffee and wasting money? When I first witnessed such a spectacle, I realized how much the greater Boston Latin School community needs to understand the importance of coffee, and why students like myself would continually pull such a masochistic routine.

Coffee has become my best friend in this rollercoaster ride of a school and has helped me accomplish many academic and social feats. Most of you are probably wondering why I need to talk about it at all, but, shockingly, some people have never heard about the benefits of drinking coffee. Sure, it can make you dehydrated, and caffeine does have a few adverse effects, but let's stop being judgmental ninnies—virtually everything gives you cancer or causes some kind of damage. So let's move on to the obvious facts: coffee is good, coffee accomodates your procrastinating tendencies by allowing you to stay awake to do the things you were supposed to finish four hours ago. Therefore, it is like ambrosia for all BLS students, a reliable source when you're in a mellow state of mind or balancing ten things at once. This aromatic concoction fills your deprived body as you bear each day of school; this drink is not just an eye opener but a necessity for survival. And the more you become addicted to caffeine and start "talking crazy and delirious," as my friends call it, the more you find yourself making witty retorts and better grades on those conceptual essays. Sounds too good to be true? Well, maybe I forgot to mention that in order to get your fix there develops a small need to completely prostitute yourself to the corporate powers-that-be. But that's just a minor detail.

Maybe it's my SARS (severe acute recurring senioritis) talking, maybe it's my need to break from serious political coverage of Saddam Hussein, or maybe it's just pure passion—I attest that coffee is and always will be the best, natural, and legal substance that everyone needs in order to succeed in life. Whether you're studying for Dr. Lambert's essay exams or writing ridiculously long glycolysis cycles for Mr. Akeson, coffee will be there for you. When the biting cold makes you numb all over or the summer heat has turned you into a waterless prune, coffee, hot or cool, will be there for you. And when you realize you're shrinking, speaking in monosyllables, staying up 'til three in the morning staring at the ceiling, raving in delirium—(purely unrelated to the effects of caffeine of course)—coffee will be there for you. My friends, as a BLS senior, I feel it is my duty to pass on my knowledge and wisdom to members of the younger class. This is my legacy to you: an urgent message to drink coffee. Sporks, tote bags, the word "metrosexual," and other fads may come and go, but some things are classic and everlasting.

BLSTV: The New Season

By Lily Mooney, I
STAFF WRITER

Communication is not always an easy thing here at the Latin school. Between rushing to classes, scrambling to finish work, or being wrapped up in any given extracurricular, it is very hard to stop and pay attention to anything that is going on inside Boston Latin. Rccently, however, a group of students has undertaken to broadcast information to the entire school and make members of every class more aware of the Latin School community's happenings and opportunities. You can tune in every morning using a computer and projector and watch the morning announcements, school news, and the daily bulletins read on our own BLSTV.

BLSTV was begun just last year as the brainchild of Leanne Gaffney '03 and was surrendered early in its development to three student executive producers: Kerry Foley (I), Pei Huang (I), and Amanda Shapiro (I). The viewers only see *two* anchors on the show every morning during homeroom, but in fact there are currently approximately 25 people working for the program: 10 anchors rotating in pairs to bring you the news each morning, the producers, and a large number of cameramen and other technical crew members. Ms. Cathy Meany and Mr. Joel Ramos help out a lot with the technical aspects of BLSTV, teaching students how to run all the equipment in the TV station. Yes, Latin School does in fact have a relatively impressive working TV station; it is hidden away across from the back of the library, in the basement near a storage room. This year they received new, more sophisticated equipment and are making good use of it. As the program evolves conceptually, it also moves forward technically.

When asked about the goals and the mission of BLSTV, executive producer Huang said, "we want to try to give a glimpsc of BLS to everyone." He wcnt on to cxplain that students as sixies, for example, tend to know very little about what goes on in the school and what they can do. BLSTV attempts to provide a fuller picture of the school to its studcnts, to give them a sense of what is happening. Although not all homeroom teachers may choose to tune in regularly, BLSTV airs every morning. The anchors, each day a fresh pair of faces, read the bulletin and issue congratulations or announcements for any school group. They also provide a unique opportunity to be heard at school. "If you have something to say, you can say it on BLSTV," says Huang. "To get something in the bulletin you have to write it down [and] go through a teacher, but here you just have to run it by us and you can advertise or announce whatever you want." This new forum for announcement allows students or student groups to make more engaging or appealiug advertisements that can be watched by the entire school community, provided that they are tuned in. It seems that you can benefit the most from what BLSTV has to offer if you tune in regularly.

Right now, BLSTV is working towards the integration of more underclassmen into the program in order to increase diversity of interests and help engage everyone at school. They are trying to get the word out, to get more people to watch, and to improve the quality of the daily program. "The broadcasters are more upbeat, and we have more to say," says Huang. The program has truly grown since its establishment last year, and continues to develop as more people learn about the program, watch and contribute. BLSTV is always open to suggestions and ideas from the student body, as the prograin exists solely for the sake of the students. Rather than sleeping in homeroom each morning, tune in and get informcd.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

Blue Light Special on Aisle Seven

By Qingni Lin, II
Contributing Writer

"CDs are way too expensive. Why not just download the song?" As these seemingly treacherous thoughtsthough sadly logical ones to the average financially-challenged teenagerÑbecome increasingly commonplace, record companies struggle with drastically plummeting rates in sales. In a desperate attempt to revive sales, Universal Music Group, the biggest of the record companies, responded last month by lowering average CD prices between 24 and 31 percent in major retailers such as Wal-mart, Best Buy and Circuit City.

According to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), this year's national CD price average was lowered 2 percent, to an average of $13.42 per disc from $14.02 in 2000. More drastic than these figures are the evident slashes in CD prices. Thanks to Universal's controversial plan, avid fans are now able to purchase superstar Jay-Z's million-dollar release *The Black Album* and Sheryl Crow's *The Best Of Sheryl Crow* for under $10, a rare sight since the 1990s. This is not to say that the price of every CD in every store has been uniformly lowered; the decrease price has only been applied to some Universal-produced CDs at select retailers that have agreed to comply with the cost cuts. It is also important to note that prices on CDs vary by as much as $6, depending on the retailer. The price slashes do not even apply to Classical music, Latin music, singles, or music videos from Universal.

Many record companies blame the rapidly decreased CD sales on the availability of free music online. Most notoriously known are mass "peer-to-peer" pirating groups, more politely termed "sharing" networks such as Napster, which is now legal butexpensive but legal, and KaZaA, which is still free but illegal. Recently, even universities such as Pennsylvania State have set up intra-college music sharing networks, allowing thousands of college students living on campus to exchange songs legally. Unsurprisingly, since such online sharing networks cost artist and record companies a staggering $700 million according to estimates, the RIAA is beginning to bring lawsuits on users of KaZaA, many of whom are minors.

Perhaps there are other underlying causes for the fall of record sales. A major complaint that many have against buying CDs is the need to pay for 13 or 14 songs just to get two or three good tracks. Obtaining music via illegal download is not only free, but it also allows music lovers the luxury of singling out songs according to taste and arranging preferred playlists. Record companies can also blame the compact MP3 player and the equally trendy iPod, which can play legally purchased songs for 99 cents per song from Apple's 200,000-song online library. With these mass sharing networks, as well as more technologically advanced players, the CD may become as obsolete as the record.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN, II

CURRENT CD PRICES HAVE FALLEN $0.60 OVER A FOUR YEAR PERIOD. HOWEVER, CD SALES HAVE NOT INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. -

Even as Universal Music Group, which, according to USA Today, holds a 29 percent share of the U.S market, puts its plan into action, its price cuts are receiving much criticism from large and small retailers alike. Many retailers claim that the public has come to expect every CD to be priced at $11 to $12 due to Universal's televised promotion programs. Virgin Megastore, which has 23 locations in the Un:ted States, accused Universal of "dictating" standards; other smaller retailers have condemned Universal for using its new price-slashing program to favor of chain retailers like Wal-Mart, and to bankrupt smaller regional "mom-and-pop" music stores.

Such corporate arguments do not affect the average consumer, who, for the most part, cares only about cheaper merchandise. But the essential question still remains: will price slashes boost CD sales? While most people seem to think so, one member of Class II, who wishes to remain anonymous, disagrees. "The people who download the most songs usually own the most CDs and records they download songs only to see whether they should buy a certain CD or they just use it as a backup," she asserts. Regardless of public opinion, only time will reveal the outcome of the Universal Music Group's war against online music piracy and spiffy new technology.

The Ticket to 2004

Dennis Kucinich


COURTESY OF WWW.KUCINICH.COM

Look for Dennis Kucinich in any poll, and you will most likely find him in the single digits, hovering somewhere near the margin of error. Kucinich is unquestionably the most liberal of the Democratic candidates for president. Barring unforeseen circumstances, he will not be the man the Democrats choose to face George W. Bush next November. Yet this does not stop him from relentlessly hammering home his progressive message, and he has managed to get himself noticed by his fellow candidates and the media alike.

Dennis Kucinich does not play particularly well in the conservative American heartland, but this fact does not seem to bother him much at all. He does not shy away from his veganism, and tends to make casual reference to Kafka's *The Trial* when criticizing Attorney General John Ashcroft. While many candidates like to play up their humble roots, Kucinich can truly boast of having pulled himself up from abject poverty. He spent his youth moving from place to place as his family faced frequent evictions and often spent nights in a car because they had nowhere else to turn. Although he went on to become Mayor of Cleveland and then a representative from Ohio, Kucinich says that he has never forgotten his history, and that it has imbued him with concern for the unfortunate. Indeed, Kucinich supports universal health care and free college education for all Americans. He pledges that, if elected, he would create a "full employment economy." He would pay for his expensive proposals by cutting 15 percent from the Department of Defense's budget. He would also create a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence, and he is the only candidate to demand a complete withdrawal of United States forces from Iraq.

Kucinich's liberal stance sets him apart from his opponents. While other candidates hope to challenge George Bush in November, it seems that Kucinich's goal is just as much to challenge conservative elements within his own party.

Howard Dean


COURTESY OF REUTERS

Long touted as the front runner for the democratic nomination, Howard Dean is considered by some to be the only candidate capable of giving the Republican Party a run for its considerable money. However, after coming in third in the Iowa caucuses, he is in danger of losing this coveted title which in past elections has taken on the guise of a self-fulfilling prophecy manufactured by the media.

Of course, it's not like Dean will be out of a job if he loses his bid for President—before going into politics, he dabbled in the stock market and worked as a medical doctor. His political record reflects both his history as an advocate for Jimmy Carter and his background as an heir to his conservative father's Wall Street fortune. He entered Vermont politics in 1982 as a state legislator, then lieutenant governor in 1986. The death of his superior in 1991 vaulted him abruptly and unexpectedly from a relatively insignificant position to a far more prominent one. Although he served a year as an accidental governor, he proceeded to win the first of five elections on his own merits the following year. Not until he barely scraped by in a tough race in 2000 did he decide to cease running.

His years as governor are most memorable for the Civil Unions Bill of 1999—for Dean, a compromise between his personal disagreement with gay marriages and the Supreme Court decision supporting them. In recent years, he has opposed the war in Iraq and other policies of the Bush Administration, particularly the copious tax cuts. Despite his "anti-establishment" reputation, Dean is essentially conservative in matters of finance, perhaps a legacy of his Wall Street experience—and in fact, he had many Republican supporters in his years as governor of Vermont. He advocates disposing of Bush's tax cuts and enacting a long-term plan to lessen the deficit and pay for Social Security, Medicare and Homeland Security, among other things.

Dean also vehemently disagrees with Bush's education policies, such as vouchers and the locally notorious No Child Left Behind Act. He accuses Bush of saddling American schools with "rigid and unrealistic mandates, incentives for lowering standards, burdensome sanctions, over-reliance on testing, and demoralizing labels." Instead, he claims that, using his experience from Vermont, he will "work to strengthen our schools with improved student health centers, a focus on parental involvement, recruiting and retaining outstanding teachers and administrators, and resources to fund key mandate."

Dean has been called everything from "a moderate" to "a draft-dodging ski bum" Regardless of how he is categorized by voters, he stresses, "I don't care what you label me as long as you call me president."

Joseph Lieberman


COURTESY OF AP

He wholeheartedly supported the war in Iraq. He has scolded the entertainment industry for wallowing in wanton sex and gratuitous violence. He has supported experiments with school vouchers and the National Missile Defense System. He is in favor of capital punishment and has been an ardent supporter of Israel. Does this sound like a quick profile of George Bush or of one of his Republican friends? Nope. This is a description of Democratic presidential candidate Senator Joseph Lieberman.

Lieberman has carved out a niche as the most conservative of the Democratic candidates. His social views spring in part from his strong Orthodox Jewish faith, which he does not hesitate to mention on the campaign trail. He also maintains that only a candidate who can compete with President Bush for the votes of moderate swing voters stands a chance of winning in November. Nor does Lieberman lack for Democratic credentials: he has been a strong supporter of civil rights legislation, gun control, environmental protection, and abortion rights. He advocates repealing the portion of Bush's tax cuts benefitting families with incomes above $200,000 and would restore the dividend tax that Bush abolished. Indeed, he endeared himself to the Democratic establishment enough to earn nomination as Al Gore's running mate in Gore's unsuccessful 2000 bid for the presidency. The name recognition that Lieberman enjoys from the failed runÑalthough Gore chose not to endorse him, instead choosing to back DeanÑcoupled with his appeal to independent voters, is counted among the senator's biggest strengths. Despite this, Lieberman's campaign has yet to catch fire with the Democratic core in many states. He chose to bypass last Monday's Iowa caucuses, and as of January 23, polls from New Hampshire showed him with 7 percent of the primary vote.

Lieberman has staked his campaign on the bet that Democrats will not mind embracing a centrist candidate with a good chance of unseating George Bush. Whether this strategy will pay off remains to be seen when the votes are tallied.

John Edwards


COURTESY OF AP

John Edwards is fifty years old. Many voters familiar with his boyish looks find this hard to believe and cite his youth and inexperience as a reason not to support his campaign for president, to the extent that Edwards has taken to auspiciously mentioning his age at every campaign stop. In the same stump speech, Edwards generally mentions his background as the son of a mill worker, touting it as evidence of his commitment to fight for the little guy.

I met John Edwards once. Flustered and overwhelmed amid a crowd of shoving journalists, I barely managed to squeeze out a not-quite-coherent question vaguely related to education. Edwards was unfazed by my own lack of composure. "The No Child Left Behind Act leaves millions behind," he began, and immediately launched from memory into a detailed public education plan. He commented that there are still two separate and unequal school systems in this country, and that the separation is no longer based on race, but on economic status. He went on to explain his own proposals to increase teacher pay, fully fund No Child Left Behind, institute early childhood education and teacher training programs, and offer bonuses to teachers willing to work in disadvantaged areas. Edwards has similarly detailed plans on issues ranging from health care to job creation. He insists that when primary voters really begin to pay attention and examine candidates' stands on issues, they will be impressed with his ideas and give him their support. This, coupled with Edwards' relentless optimism—he has steadfastly refused to participate in attacks on his opponents—appears to be paying off. He recently enjoyed a much-better-than-expected second place finish in the Iowa Caucuses. As of January 23rd, polls out of New Hampshire showed him with 12 percent of the vote.

Who *are* these people?

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

The nine candidates for the Democratic nomination make this the most crowded field in recent memory. Although the pool has already narrowed to seven, the number of politicians involved makes this a most interesting and unpredictable primary season. Every state, Washington, D.C., various American territories, and Democrats abroad will all contribute a share of the 4,317 delegatesÑalthough only 797 of them will not be bound to a presidential candidateÑbefore the Democratic National Convention in Boston this July.

During the primary season, timing is everything. Some voting Americans carefully weigh their decisions, while others are drawn immediately to a candidate. But many just go for the winner of previous votes. Iowa, which held the first contest on January 20, was the focus of much attention, in spite of the meager 45 delegates up for grabs. In the polls, four candidates were clustered at the top, but on caucus night John Kerry surprised everyone with a victory. The state is not considered the end-all, however: Wesley Clark and Joe Lieberman opted out of the caucus entirely to focus on New Hampshire. The Granite State's primary is next, and polls show Clark gaining ground on Howard Dean's commanding lead. Nobody knows how much of a popularity surge Kerry will receive from the bandwagonners. After this, votes start coming in groups, with over 1,000 delegates available in the Super Tuesday round of primary voting on March 2. Massachusetts is one of the ten states that will go to the polls that day; on the next week, four more states will decide.

Most states have primaries, although there are 14 with caucuses. In either case, a candidate must win 15 percent of a district to win a local delegate's vote. These delegates then vote on the county and state levels to determine the final distribution of a state's delegates. There are also undecided delegates, divided among elected officials such as senators and governors, who may endorse whomever they choose. The difference between primaries and caucuses is that primaries are done as private ballots, while caucuses involve much more strategy. These are held in school cafeterias and church basements, and any registered Democrat can attend. If a candidate does not have the support of 15 percent of the people present, those voters can throw their support to another candidate, creating situations in which alliances are made and broken: sometimes a campaign throws its support to someone else in order to block a rival from getting the requisite 15 percent. The process is entirely confusing and unpredictable.

For the Democratic voters, this year's decision is not just based on platform issues. The latest *Boston Globe* poll reveals a statistical tie for the top voter concern in the primaries. In choosing the Democratic nominee for 2004, primary goers are split on which is the most important factorÑan agreeable position on the issues or the best shot at beating George Bush.

Wesley Clark


COURTESY OF WWW.CLARK04.COM

Unaware that a TV camera was watching, Wesley Clark was asked in December about rivals questioning his patriotism and military record. Clark snapped,

"I'll beat the shit out of them."

The last candidate to join the Democratic race, General Clark has no experience in politics. Instead, he brings an impressive military record that began with acceptance to West Point. After graduation, he took a two-year break to study at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He then trained for Vietnam, where he was shot and earned a Silver Star. Clark continued to climb the military ladder and in 1994 joined the Joint Chiefs of Staff, then went to Bosnia as a peace negotiator. Upon his appointment as general, he became the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO and led a campaign in Kosovo without casualties to allied troops.

Because of his latecomer status, Clark took a while to sort out the issues. He supports progressive taxation and would repeal the Bush tax cuts for higher incomes, turning the money into job incentives. He is a proponent of current free trade agreements, universal health care, civil unions, and stronger gun control with background checks. He believes that the United States should enforce stricter codes to protect the environment and national wildlife refuges. Clark would have Congress review the PATRIOT Act and repeal clauses that "threaten our civil liberties." Wes, as he is called, has proposed an ambitious and expensive education plan that includes universal preschool, expanded Headstart availability, programs for teacher recruitment and retention, and a fully funded No Child Left Behind Act. He touts a Universal College Grant that would give $6,000 per year to any American attending college. As for Iraq, where his military expertise comes into play, Clark claims to have had "reservations" prior to the war. To deal with the current situation, he would create a governing structure similar to the one he implemented in Bosnia.

Al Sharpton


COURTESY OF REUTERS

Reverend Al Sharpton is to politics approximately what Michael Moore is to social commentary: he's smart, he's extreme, and few people know quite what to make of him.

Democrats will be forced to form an opinion of some sort on this political enigma over the next few months, since he has joined the pool of potential nominees and seems determined to see it through to the bitter end. Although he is not widely considered a viable candidate, he is undoubtedly an intriguing one. Throughout his career, from activist and advocate to politician and pundit, Al Sharpton has never yet failed to incite controversy. He developed a reputation in the 1970s as a passionate political activist, and in 1991 he founded the National Action Network, a civil rights group. He is, however, no stranger to political disappointment—he was unsuccessful in his bid for the New York Senate in 1978, for the United States Senate in 1992 and '94, and for mayor of New York in 1997.

Sharpton's official campaign web site advocates constitutional amendments guaranteeing a right to education, health care, and the vote, the arguments for which are liberally peppered with criticisms of the Bush Administration and its apparent friendliness with the National Rifle Association. Between the capitalization of key phrases and the blunt writing style, the site bears little resemblance to the minimally provocative home pages of other Democratic candidates.

Clearly, Sharpton is not aiming merel to make friends with the voting public—as h freely admits. "What I profess to do is help th oppressed and if I cause a load of discomfor in the white community and the black com munity, that in my opinion means I'm bein effective, because I'm not trying to mak them comfortable. The job of an activist is t make people tense and cause social change. Unfortunately for his presidential prospects "making people tense" does not generat votes. However, Sharpton serves a definit purpose—he keeps his peers on their toes, an keeps the presidential race interesting.

John Kerry


COURTESY OF AP

He fought in the Vietnam War as a Navy officer, and then returned to fight its supporters. More than 30 years later, he voted for another war this time in Iraq then became a vocal critic. "Comeback Kerry," as he was dubbed after winning first place in the Iowa caucuses, might be more accurately labeled "contradictory."

Kerry's surprising success in Iowa shocked even members of his own camp; aides who have no qualms about referring to their candidate as "the next President of the United States" had predicted a mere third-place finish. He has not hesitated to seize the advantage, although his headlong rush towards nomination may be checked by candidates like Wesley Clark and Joe Lieberman, who skipped Iowa entirely to campaign in the more politically significant New Hampshire.

While criticizing Bush for his current policy in Iraq, Kerry has also made calculated jabs at his fellow party members who, accord- ing to his official web site, "threaten to take us on a trail of confusion and retreat." He has sworn to pick up what the No Child Left Behind Act left behind, providing more money for schools nationwide. Choosing to tread the ever-narrowing path between capturing precious swing votes and retaining his voter base, he has supported civil unionsÑbut not gay marriage. He has also promised to "stand with women," thus distinguishing himself from the plethora of candidates advocating the return of the corset.

The Iowa caucuses separated Kerry from the pack of candidates hungering for the chance at presidency, and lessened the group of realistic contenders. What remains to be seen is whether "Comeback Kerry" can ride his wave of enthusiasm and alliteration all the way to the nomination.

Democratic Dropouts



COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Carol Moseley-Braun:
As the first black female senator in the nation, Carol Moseley-Braun made a statement with her mere presence in the race for the presidential nomination. Whether or not America was ready for Moseley-Braun, it was sometimes unclear if Moseley-Braun was ready for America: she sometimes appeared disorganized in debates, once unable to recall her own college major. After regretfully dropping out of the race on January 15, she endorsed Howard Dean, but emphasized her primary goal: "to get George Bush out of the White House come November!"

Richard Gephardt:
Richard Gephardt's withdrawal from the primaries was prompted by his ignominious defeat in the same Iowa caucuses that launched John Kerry and John Edwards to the forefront. After 27 years as a Missouri congressman and almost 15 years as the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, he would seem to be eminently qualifiedÑapparently the voters of Iowa did not agree. Now, having given up on his presidential aspirations, Gephardt plans to retire after his final year in Congress.

Profiles written by Ariane Williams, I, Erin Durkin, I, and Trude Raizen, II

Spotlight



seniya Nivorozhkina

Y Leah Bourak, I & Marta Nalysnyk, I
Contributing Writers

Kse? Ksi? Ksu? Just call her Kat (and not even start with her last name). ether you've seen her in the halls, in or just happened to meet her through friends, you won't forget this girl. Not does she play varsity volleyball, work ie MFA, play the piano, ice skate and k three languages fluently, but she is one of the best friends that we could ever dreamed of. Even with her vast acurricular activities and perfect grades, still finds time to 'chill with her girlies'. when we say chill that is the last thing usually befalls us as we cruise around ton in her blue Honda Civic, all the e singing along to the well-known tune Sex Bomb".

Originally born in Russia, Kat moved Denmark where she and her family lived several years before moving to France. r France, Kat moved back to Russia for ar before coming to her final destination ie U.S. at the age of ten, taking with her a e of each culture which helped her build rong and vibrant personality.

After adapting to new languages, oms and people three times, finding a e as an incoming freshman at BLS was roblem. After only several months Kat known for her love of and talent in art. e been drawing since I could remember," says. "For me, art is never tedious and the only thing I never force myself to When asked about what inspires her in she answers without hesitation, "People. rything I draw or paint comes from never from imagination." In addition ier charismatic persona, this reply is a explanation as to why Kat loves to be rounded by people.

Taking AP Art in her junior year ired Kat to go to New York for the four- k summer art program offered to high ool juniors and seniors at the School of ual Arts. During this four-week departure n Boston, we decided to pay Kat a visit after much parental-convincing on part, we made the necessary four-hour to the Big Apple. Our ecstatic, paint ered friend greeted us and began showing around her dorm. What can we say? The r was short. As we entered the closet d front door that could barely open hout hitting the dresser. Lucky for us we n't see any of her six-legged roommates. despite the roaches, AC deprived rooms even the sweltering New York summer it, Kat was happier than we had ever n her. In that one week, she had already de friends with the entire floor and most portantly, had completed several pieces of Even now when we ask her about her A experience she says, "It was difficult first, to be surrounded by art 24/7. To go m 45 minute art classes to seven-hour art sses. But the experience was priceless. I w know for sure that no matter what I cide to do, art will play a big part in my cision."

As senior year rolls by and everyone ps for a minute to reminisce about their dividual BLS adventures, for us Kat, asey, Ksusha, Sushi, Kitty Kat, Ksenya ivorozhkina (or any other nickname she ay be known by) plays a great part in the emories, jokes, lessons and experiences of gh school.

A&E Jackpot!...Almost

By Zak Trayes-Gibson
Assistant A&E Editor

Back in the heyday of Las Vegas, when the town was run by mafiosi and frequented by the Rat Pack, the cooler was a respectable casino profession. Any schmuck with extraordinarily bad luck was brought in to cool tables and help recoop the casino's losses. Turning winners into losers has always been the casino's prerogative, so even unproven strategies steeped in superstition were used until they were replaced by the miracles of technology.

Bernie Lootz (William H. Macy) is a natural born loser. He shuffles around the floor the Shangri-La Hotel and Casino, cooling just about everything from slots to baccarat, and is the equivalent of kryptonite on a stick. Yet there is no joy in his profession, as Bernie has spent the better part of a decade paying back upwards of fifty g's to Shelly Kaplow (Baldwin), the casino owner who pines for the aforementioned heyday with fierce nostalgia. Bernie has a strange affection for the man nonetheless, as his bad knee reminds him of the gambling bug Shelly beat out of him with a Louisville Slugger.



COURTESY OF WWW.GOOGLE.COM

Bernie's home life isn't much better. He lives alone in the Bettor Luck motel with a collection of long-dead plants and spends his down time watching televangelists and nature programs in bed. He used to have the company of a black cat, but it died. Macy has by now mastered the sad sack shtick he is so often forced to play, but he gives a straight performance that makes Bernie's down and out apathy/misery believable.

Bernie has a week left on his contract with Shelly and is finalizing plans on skipping town when he manages to capture the attention of cocktail waitress Natalie(Maria Bello) by getting her better tables. Her past is as bruised as his, but he finds they are kindred souls of sorts in a city built on broken dreams. Their unlikely relationship is not one of pure lust, but muted acceptance of the other's flaws. Strangely enough, Bernie's luck turns and begins to severely hamper his abilities as a cooler. None of this pleases Shelly, who is in deep enough with a heroin-addicted lounge singer (a pallid Paul Sorvino), shrinking profits, and an MBA forcing the Steve Wynn image down his throat.

"The Cooler" may seem like a comedy on first glance, but Natalie and Bernie's relationship is too far removed from the dynamics of a Hugh Grant vehicle to fit the genre. Rather, they behave as real people would and thus make their improbable romance a palpable one.

The film's tone skirts the light ambience of films such as Lost in Translation and is instead grounded in an unforgiving world of consequences, thanks largely to Alec Baldwin's Shelly. He is a man of massive contradictions who displays the calculated ferocity and impotence of a man who is forced to watch his tenets slowly crumble beneath him. Its one of his best performances in years, and well-deserving of supporting actor recognition.

Wayne Kramer, who directed and co-wrote, makes his first outing an enjoyable one with strong acting and a blend of noir and modern-day moviemaking that, much like a trip to Vegas, is great fun while it lasts. Only in the harsh light of day does the film begin to leave the viewer feeling hollow, slightly cheated, and a little wiser.

What is the Guild?

By Bieta Andemariam, I
Assistant A&E Editor

This spring will mark the Drama Club's eighth year of participation in the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival, affectionately shortened to GuildÑsince MHSDG does not roll off the tongue quite as well. It seems, however, that most of the student body is quite in the dark about what is inevitably the highlight of the Drama Club each year.

The Guild is a theater competition held at various schools around the state. Participating high schools perform a short play of no more than 40 minutes. Each play is judged by professionals in the field of performing arts. The competition is organized into three levels: the preliminaries, the semifinals and the finals. Schools will travel to host sites, where they are judged against approximately seven others. Two or three plays are chosen by the judges to move on to the next round of competition. Last year 102 schools participated; of those, two were chosen to represent Massachusetts in the New England Finals.

Preparations for a Guild play start at the end of the preceding school year. It is then that a student director and the play are chosen by our student producers, at which point the director begins mapping out the play. Usually around the performance of the fall play, auditions for the Guild are held. Guild auditions are typically the most competitive, since casts are generally small and performing roles are highly coveted among drama folk. Because of the high selectivity of the auditions, the caliber of the directors, and the complexity on all technical levels, the Guild play is usually the most professional and stunning of all school plays.

Last year was a pivotal year for Boston Latin School drama. Perhaps you have noticed the shiny new cup now occupying our sadly-empty trophy case. Last year's Guild entrant, *The Dining Room*, was the first play from Boston Latin ever to move on to the Finals held at the Dorothy Quincy Adams Suite at the John Hancock over three days. Of the 102 competing high schools, Boston Latin was one of fifteen finalists. Along the way cast members also received numerous acting, technology, and directing awards.

Besides performing and sometimes winning, the biggest attraction of the Guild is the opportunity to see what other high schools have produced. Certain high schools have a reputation for continually putting together outstanding shows. The sheer talent that these schools possess and are able to showcase is often intimidating, but one purpose of the Massachusetts High School Guild Festival is to bring students together in appreciation of art.

Boston Latin also possesses its own talent, and the Drama Club is fortunate to be able to distinguish itself from most of the other high school clubs in some ways. Many of the high schools against which Latin competes come from the suburbs or are private schools; our increasingly diminishing arts budget is used to its full capacity. We are also one of the few high schools that do not hire directors for the Guild play, since all plays are directed by our own students.

Boston Latin's Drama Club is a gem that is often overlooked. It has proven itself with a beautiful trophy; although it may be solitary now, it promises to be the beginning of a legacy.



COURTESY OF WWW.MHSDG.COM

Where to Put the Good Money on the Oscars

	Bieta	*Edward*	*Nafkote*	*Zak*
	 COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM	 COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM	 COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM	 COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM
Best Picture	Should: Kill Bill, Vol. 1 The essence of cinema. Will: Mystic River Who doubts it?	Should: Lord of the Rings: Return of the King Will: LOTR: RotK Runaway winner...duh!	Should: LOTR: RotK Most entertaining, they've got it coming Will: Mystic River Sweeping	Should: *Master and Commander* The only good epic this year. Will: *Mystic River* Greek tragedy in Boston
Best Actor	Should: Johnny Depp, Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl Because I like men with swords—argh! Will: Sean Penn, Mystic River He's a good actor, if that's what matters	Should: Elijah Wood, LOTR: RotK Will: Elijah Wood, LOTR: RotK Hobbits will be the next to invade Iraq	Should: Johnny Depp, Pirates of the Carribean He made the movie funny and interesting and Orlando Bloom's cheekbones do not act Will: Sean Penn, Mystic River His best, he has deserved a nod for the past three years	Should: Bill Murray, Lost in Translation Almost as good as Caddyshack Will: Sean Penn, Mystic River Awesome, totally awesome
Best Actress	Should: Uma Thurman, Kill Bill Vol. 1 I am woman, hear me roar. Will: Charlize Theron, Monster Oscar loves physical transformation, think Kidman as Woolf	Should: Nicole Kidman, Cold Mountain Will: Nicole Kidman, Cold Mountain Take this, Jerry Maguire.	Should: Diane Keaton, Something's Gotta Give Movie was too long, but her scenes were interesting and real Will: Diane Keaton, Something's Gotta Give Because she's Diane Keaton	Should: Scarlett Johannsen Because she's purdy Will: Charlize Theron, Monster The down-and-out prostitute always wins.
Best Supporting Actor	Should: Sean Astin, LOTR: RotK It was all his movie by the end. Will: Albert Finney, Big Fish Long overdue for a little man.	Should: Andy Serkis, LOTR: RotK Will: Andy Serkis, LOTR: RotK Human actors no longer needed.	Should: Sean Astin, LOTR: RotK Even with lots of weepy speeches, we didn't want to choke him Will: Albert Finney, Big Fish His screen presence was felt despite the small screen time	Should: Alec Baldwin, The Cooler At his sleazy best Will: Tim Robbins, Mystic River Look at those sad eyes!
Best Supporting Actress	Should: Renee Zellweger Will: Renee Zellweger The Academy's not always stupid	Should: Renee Zelleweger, Cold Mountain Will: Renee Zellweger, Cold Mountain Almost as good as Elijah Wood	Should: Hope Davis, American Splendor We hated her but we loved her Will: Renee Zelleweger, Cold Mountain Yes	Should: Hope Davis, American Splendor Captures the patiently caustic personality of Joyce Brabner brilliantly. Will: Renee Zelleweger, Cold Mountain She didn't win Chicago.
Best Director	Should: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK Will: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK Shafted two years straight.	Should: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK Will: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK One to rule them all	Should: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK He went the way that Harry Potter should have gone... three times! Will: Clint Eastwood, Mystic River Almost as good as Unforgiven	Should: Quentin Tarantino, Kill Bill Vol. 1 A coherent film from a lifetime of scatological fanboy worship Will: Peter Jackson, LOTR: RotK It has to win something.
Best Original Screenplay	Should: Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl Cheers to whoever made a script out of a theme park ride. Will: Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl	Should: Lost in Translation Why not? Will: Just lost...	Should: Kill Bill, Vol. I It was brilliant! It was hilarious while thousands were dying rapidly! Will: Kill Bill, Vol. I None of the other original screenplays were any good.	Should: Lost in Translation Like Roman Holiday, but in Japan and with less romance. Will: In America Like Gangs of New York, but good and with less flying limbs.
Best Adapted Screenplay	Should: Big Fish Was originally short stories; that takes guts Will: LOTR: RotK Hollywood is full of closet nerds.	Should: LOTR: RotK- Will: Master and Commander Who cares?	Should: Big Fish Short stories to screenplay takes talent Will: Cold Mountain It's good enough to ignore it's occasional mediocrity	Should: American Splendor Blends comics, biography, and the real world seamlessly. Also funny. Will: Master and Commander: Far Side of the World A great derivation of Patrick O'Brian's adventure literature.

Spotlight



Ben Drabkin

By Harley Gorton & Kassa Belay, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Benjamin "Khalil" Drabkin was born in the clutches of sheep on the outskirts of rural Maine. Since then, Ben has come a long way. He attends school and enjoys music. He is quick to grace you with his theatrical tenor voice. His talents include sheep-shearing, playing the banjo, shooting hoops, defensive soccer, and dancing with Katie Barnes' mom. As a youth, he earned his keep as an underwear model; his current occupation is playing the saxophone in various subway stations. I (*Harley*) first met Ben when we both had first lunch in the ninth grade.

He was eating an orange. Quickly grasping my leg in a handshake-esque hold, he shook it vehemently, very happy to have met someone. This cordiality is a clear manifestation of Ben's outgoing wild side. I (*Kassa*) can recall him climbing countless oaks in the Arboretum. On one of these adventures, B-Nice (as his friends endearingly call him) proceeded to shatter his right hip, cry for long hours, and scream like a sheep.

Ben plays the saxophone, which he has learned to expertly manipulate with his thick yet nubile fingers. He began playing in the sixth grade and has since dominated the Latin School music scene with ease. Ben's talents were on display during this year's holiday music festival, in which he had a melodic solo. His musical interests extend beyond jazz—he also enjoys the Wu-Tang Clan, and his beat-boxing has made him known as "D.J. Jazz Music" in the cipher. He plays the alto saxophone, bass clarinet, and B-flat clarinet in the Jazz band, Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra, respectively. He has also participated for the past two years in programs at the Berklee College of Music's summer scholarship program. His musicianship has earned him substantial awards, including the Norwood Jazz Classics Outstanding Soloist Award and the Division I MVP award in the Cape Cod District Jazz Festival. In jazz, his primary influences are John Coltrane, Eric Dolphy and the Fully Celebrated Orchestra. "He's amazing," says a fellow Jazz Band member. "He's the best saxophonist under 20 that I've heard."

On the athletic side, Ben has been the captain of the varsity soccer team. Although the team never came close to winning, Ben was always proud to show his skill in the defensive aspect of the game. On the basketball court, Ben plays positions 1 and 3. He may also be found wandering late into the evening with a saxophone in one hand and a can of spray paint in the other, beautifully serenading the mean streets of Boston.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Muching has ordered me to tell the truth. And here it is: a spotlight was written for the above mentioned Ben "Possibly Khalil" Drabkin. His friends, the above mentioned Kassa Belay and Harley Gorton, wrote a very short spotlight based upon the principles of the late Ernest Hemingway that less text equals more quality. Unfortunately a few members of the Argo staff disagree; some even think this is a really bad spotlight. But after a few phone calls to Kassa's mom, Harley's dad, an e-mail from Ben's dad, a few choice words from Muching and a lack of blood sugar, here it is in all its glory. Please remember that spotlights and their quality or lack thereof are not the responsibility of Argo. The writers are the responsible ones, so aim all praise and swearing at them please. (It should also be noted that Ben is extremely talented. Nothing that is said here is meant to detract from that.)*

A&E

A Man and His Pictures

By Burt Carter, II
Assistant Editor

The current MFA exhibition, "Rembrandt's Journey: Painter Draftsman Etcher", is a real surprise but not a disappointment. On entering the exhibit, the viewer is presented with an image in oil of Rembrandt as depicted in one of his earliest self-portraits. It is a vivid painting with unique colors and a masterful use of light and shadows. The painting is one of the few paintings in the exhibit. "Rembrandt's Journey" is not a collection of his famous paintings but is primarily a presentation of Rembrandt's prints and etchings. This exhibition gives the viewer an opportunity to see beyond the famous oils of Rembrandt to his other works, which represent the life of the man himself.

This exhibition is not the MFA's typical master showcase. The show was organized by MFA Curator for Prints, Clifford Ackley. In an MFA press release, Ackley discussed his role as curator for the exhibit and stated that "by bringing together works that have never before been seen together, visitors will enter into Rembrandt's unique world—shaped by his close observation of reality and boundlessly fertile imagination—and experience his unusual ability to imaginatively and emphatically project himself into various roles in his works."



The exhibition is a collection of 23 paintings and oil sketches, 35 drawings, 160 etchings and 6 original copper plates, all borrowed from both private and public collections across the globe. The general exhibition is organized by theme rather than date and, within each theme, the works are presented by date. The themes of the exhibition give the viewer an opportunity to see how Rembrandt deals with different subjects and how the themes reflect different stages of Rembrandt's life. Many of the etchings presented in the exhibit have religious themes from the Old and New Testament. The collection, "The Rest on the Flight into Egypt," is a very interesting series of works. This set of works on the same theme represents the artist's work in different media from the early prints through his oils on canvas. Another religious collection, "The Adoration of the Shepherds (1656-1657)," is a series of etchings, dry points and engravings. The series is a clear presentation of how he worked in different media, how he improved his technique over the years, and how, in the last work, he achieved an illuminating aspect to his print.

Departing from his religious themes, Rembrandt chose to deal with very basic earthy themes. "Flirtations and Fornications" is a series of etchings dealing with sexual themes relating to Rembrandt's time and shows his comical side. This series stands out to the viewer because it is very different from Rembrandt's other works. His series of "Sketches of Everyday Life" and "Street People and Beggars" show Rembrandt's ability to observe the world around him. These sketches spanning a number of years represent with fine detail and emotion the lives of street people, performers and beggars.

The atypical show presents a series of self-portraits, which span through the rooms. The first painting displayed alone in the first exhibition room is the famous self-portrait borrowed from the Isabella Stewart Gardener Museum. This painting, finished in 1629 in the media of oil on canvas, depicts a young Rembrandt in Renaissance dress. In the next room, another self-portrait entitled "Artist in his Studio" shows Rembrandt as a small man next to a massive canvas. The small figure wears a large robe almost hanging off of him, making him seem even smaller compared to the artwork he has just created on the large canvas. One of the last works in the exhibition is a self-portrait painted with oils on canvas which was completed in the year 1650. This self-portrait depicts an older man with lines of age and experience. The Rembrandt of 1659 is a man of experience and is very different from the minuscule artist dwarfed by his canvas in his earlier self-portrait.

The three self-portraits oversee the exhibition and sum up its theme. "Rembrandt's Journey: Painter Draftsman Etcher" is not a typical MFA master show: it takes the viewer on a wonderful journey through the life and art of a master.

The Rembrandt exhibit has since ended, but the Gauguin Tahiti exhibition will be running from 2/29 thru 6/20.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's True Lies

By Victoria Bartolome, II
Staff Writer

A mixture of hope and skepticism permeated California when famous Hollywood actor Arnold Schwarzenegger made his heroic leap into the governor's seat last October. Yet how has the "Governator" been proving himself thus far?

Although successful in early campaigning, Schwarzenegger was hit with controversy as a sexual harassment charge reopened other similar allegations from the past and stained Schwarzenegger's public image. Rhonda Miller, a stuntwoman who worked with Schwarzenegger in various films, brought up the case in December. After Schwarzenegger and his campaign fought back against the charges, Miller sued them for defaming her with lies. At the end of the entire ordeal, Schwarzenegger again denied the allegations, but also apologized for any offenses he may have caused in the past: "I don't remember things that I've done or said 20 years ago... And I said that many of the things that are in there are not true because that's not my behavior. And then other things may be true, and in case it is, that's why I said I want to apologize if I offended anyone, because that was not my intention."

Despite the setback, Schwarzenegger has renewed his focus by pursuing his California Recovery Plan, which includes the issuance of $15 billion in bonds to compensate for past deficits. In his State of the State address, he proposed his $99.1 billion budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year. His plan favors targeting cuts on public health expenses and welfare programs, as well as further spending cuts. California's Medi-Cal program, a healthcare program for the poor, will be one of the hardest-hit institutions due to a 10 percent reduction in support funds, a $900 million loss. His plan will also raise tuition by about 40 percent for college students, and take away $1.3 billion from local government agencies and fund; transportation money will be diverted to the general fund.

As expected, there are mixed responses to the plan. Social service advocates are greatly against the plan and believe that tax hikes would be a better solution. They do not believe that Schwarzenegger should place a financial burden on the poor, elderly, and disabled in order to balance the budget. Schwarzenegger is aware of his changed promises and damaging cuts, but he believes they are necessary, saying that "the [only] alternative is economic chaos...if we continue spending and don't make cuts, California will be bankrupt." For the moment, Democratic legislators are willing to give the Republican governor the cooperation he desires for his recovery plan.

All Schwarzenegger needs now is to gain a two-thirds approval from the Legislature. Prior to a final decision, the public's opinion on the plan will be canvassed on the 2004 March ballot. Yet there is still uncertainty among the people. As one woman states, "I expect that there will still be hard hits on health programs that will hurt children and working families very hard. I just don't see how this all works."



COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

Photography Club: Back in a Flash

By Nicole Senecal, I
Contributing Writer



BY TRACY TIDELMAN, II

As most of us remember, the Photography Department at Boston Latin School was one of the hardest hit by last year's budget cuts and untimely fund redirection – we lost Andrew Warren and the photography class as an elective. However, the little-known Photography Club has survived and, despite a slow start, is now in full swing.

The club this year is comprised of a dedicated and lively group of about 20 students from all grades and is advised by Mr. Byron. Making full use of the darkroom, the members have learned to process and print their own pictures and have also made a visit to the Mass Art photography lab and gallery. As of this week, the darkroom will be available on Tuesday afternoons for last year's photography students as well. There is a signup sheet on the door of the lab. With the loss of the class, no school funds were available for the club's use; students would have to pay a fee, similar to the costs for last year's class. However, thanks to the parents and alumni who participated in last spring's photography auction, the club has thus far been able to support itself financially. Supplies left over from last year have covered most chemical needs, and donations from parents and alumni (special thanks to Roy Benson) of film and paper have been very helpful.

Photography Club is in no way a replacement for the class, and even the club's place at BLS is still not secured. The arts department is still searching for a new teacher, according to Mr. Byron, but there will most likely not be a photography class until next year at the earliest. The club members, however, are determined to keep photography alive. "Photography Club is so important to me and everyone in it," says Kelly Baker (11). "Closing it down would just be sad and unfair to everyone."

If anyone has any questions regarding the Photography Club or open darkroom, please see Nicole Senecal in Room 123 or Mr. Byron in Room 516.

Winter 2003-04

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Fri. 12/12 Boston English 3:15/4:45
Tues. 1/27 Westford Academy 4:00/5:30
Fri. 1/30 @ Newton South 6:00/7:30
Mon. 2/2 Lowell 5:00/6:30
Wed. 2/4 @ Concord Carlisle 6:00/7:30
Wed. 2/11 @ Acton-Boxborough 4:30/6:00
Fri. 2/13 Lincoln Sudbury 6:00/7:30
Mon. 2/16 @ Weston 5:00/6:30
Wed. 2/18 Wayland 4:00/5:30
F'MAN GIRLS BASKETBALL
Fri. 12/12 @ Weston 4:00 Field School
Tues. 1/27 Westford Academy 4:00
Thur. 1/29 @Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
Fri. 2/6 @ Concord Carlisle 4:00
Tues. 2/10 @ Acton Boxborough 4:00
Fri. 2/13 Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
BOYS BASKETBALL
Tues. 1/27 @ Westford Academy 4/5:30
Fri. 1/30 Newton South 6/7:30
Tues. 2/3 Boston English 4/5:30
Fri. 2/6 Concord Carlisle 6/7:30
Tues. 2/10 Acton Boxborough 4/5:30
Fri. 2/13 @ Lincoln Sudbury 6/7:30
Mon. 2/16 Weston 6/7:30
Wed. 2/18 @ Wayland 6/7:30
FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL
Mon. 1/26 @ B.C. High 3:30
Tues. 1/27 @ Westford Academy 4:00
Fri. 1/30 Newton South 4:00
Wed. 2/4 B.C. High 4:00
Fri. 2/6 Concord Carlisle 4:00
Tues. 2/10 Acton Boxborough 4:00
Fri. 2/13 @ Lincoln Sudbury 4:00
BOYS HOCKEY
Thur. 1/29 Wayland 4:00 PM Matthews
Sat. 1/31 Tewksbury 12:00 PM Matthews
Wed. 2/4 Andover 6:30 PM Matthews
Sat. 2/7 @ Methuen/Methuen HS 2:15 PM
Wed. 2/11 Acton Boxborough 6:30 PM
Sun. 2/15 Lincoln Sudbury 2:00 PM
Mon. 2/16 W. Springfield 2:00 PM
JV BOYS HOCKEY
Thur. 1/29 Latin Academy 3:00 pm
Thur. 2/5 Canton 3:00 pm
Sun. 2/8 @ Lincoln Sudbury 6:30 pm
Tues. 2/10 @ Haverhill 5 pm VM
Tues. 2/17 Tewksbury 3:00 Hyde Park

Wolfpack Standings

Team	W	L	T
Boys' Basketball	8	5	0
Girls' Basketball	2	9	0
Boys' Hockey	7	4	1
Girls' Hockey	8	1	1
Girls' Indoor Track	0	5	1
Boys' Indoor Track	0	6	0
Boys' Swimming	4	5	0
Boys' Wrestling	3	8	0

Schedules

BOYS SWIMMING
Tues. 1/27 @ Holliston
Fri. 1/30 @ Bedford 4:00
Tues. 2/3 Westford Academy 4:00
Fri. 2/6 Acton-Boxborough 4:00
Thur. 2/12 DCL Diving Championships
Fri. 2/13 DCL Boys Swim Championships
Sat. 2/21 Boys Sectionals
Fri. 2/27 Boys States
Sat. 2/28 Boys States
GIRLS/BOYS INDOOR TRACK
Mon. 1/26 Hyde-Park 5:00
Wed. 1/28 N. Dame/Weston/Bedford 5:00
Sun. 2/1 Boys Coaches Invitational 1:00
Mon. 2/2 Dorchester 5:00
Sat. 2/7 DCL Championships 12:00
Mon. 2/9 Snow Date DCL
Sat. 2/14 Class A Championships TBA
Sat. 2/21 All State Championships TBA
** All meets at Reggie Lewis Center, except 1/24 @ Newton South*
WRESTLING
Wed. 1/28 Concord Carlisle 6:00
Sat. 1/31 @ New Bedford 9:00
Wed. 2/4 Wayland 6:00
Sat. 2/7 @ Barnstable 9:00
Fri. 2/13 Sectionals
Sat. 2/14 Sectionals
Fri. 2/20 and Sat. 2/21 States

Boys' Basketball: Slam Dunk

By Sam Akiba, II
Contributing Writer



BY LEAH SKARIN, II

Victories, flaring tempers, court dates, and skill—these just a few words that describe the boys' varsity basketball season thus far. The team has earned a 8-5 record, marking the first time the team could boast a record above .500 in quite a while. Considering that over the last three years this group has conjured up a mere seven wins, it is clear that they are continuing to improve. Additionally, their current record places them on the track to reach the MIAA tournament. The Wolfpack is the only team in the Dual County League with an all-junior starting lineup—nevertheless, they have showed that they are competitive. One statistic that does not show up on paper is their ability to overcome adversity. Not even halfway through the season the team has already experienced several high and low points.

After losing the first game, the Wolfpack won back-to-back games against Westford and Newton. A two-game winning streak might seem insignificant, but it is something not accomplished in the last three seasons and is yet another sign that the team is taking steps in the right direction. The players know that they have stay focused to succeed. As starting center Nicholas Michel (II) said: "We have to stay positive to do some damage."

The first of several obstacles was the loss of Eric Olson (II), a varsity team member since his freshman year. The emergence of Marc Tangvik (II), who has averaged 15 points per game, during this season has decreased Olson's playing time significantly. Nevertheless, he was an important bench player who put in quality minutes. The team is lead by captains Kevin Bernazanni (I) and Ivan Wong (I), who have proven to be great role models for this young team.

The most controversial incident occurred after the team's defeat of the Newton Tigers. There was a scuffle outside the locker room that started when a Newton South player allegedly used a racial epithet directed at to Reggie Alouidor (II). According to back up point guard Mike Mitchell, Reggie then went after the player who hid behind the rest of his team. The Coach of Newton South then apprehended Reggie by grabbing his neck, and pinned him against a wall. Then, starting forward Sean Martin ran over to Reggie's aid and pushed the coach off of him. There continued to be some yelling until it was broken up. No one was seriously hurt. However, the Wolf pack had to be escorted out of the building by police. The details of the incident are still very much in debate; a court date is set for January 22, 2004.

The best story of the young season, is the upset of Xaverian High School (who was 6-0 up to that point). After a back-and-forth beginning, the game (with about two minutes left) was led the Hawks. It was then that the Pack went on a stunning 11-0 run, with two key three pointers by Marc Tangvik and Charles Meniekes. With the game on the line and the team up 49-48 the Pack made an exhilirating, game saving defensive stop in the last seconds of the contest.

As the season has gone on the team has become a more cohesive unit. Players are understanding their role on the team. Nick Michel is going to have to continue to average around 19 points and grab his share of boards. Charles Meniekes is going to have to maintain his defensive toughness and his ability to handle the ball. Sean Martin must keep playing tough in the paint and grab rebounds both offensive and defensive. Marc Tangvik will have to keep up his shooting and contribute 15-20 points a night. Pat Poulin (III) must also shoot to his best ability and add depth to this team. Just as importantly the guys on the bench must be ready to enter the game and hustle to provide beneficial minutes.

No one can deny that the season has been exciting, with challenges on and off (in and out of...) the court. If the Pack can manage to balance their junior talent and continue to train their rising stars, you can expect BLS Boys' Basketball to be there when the tournament comes around.

BLS Girls Got Game

By Thomas Ahmadifar, III
Staff Writer

If you could put the Boston Latin 2003-2004 girls' basketball team on a scale, you would find perfect balance. Head Coach Bennie Myers has found a formula to weigh a veteran senior/junior left hook against a developing uppercut from sophomores and a freshman on each side of this scale. One side consists of the menacing outgoing captains Janelle Jackson (I), Kristen Stone (I) and Jillian Gordon (I), as well as Gayle Guilford (I), Katherine Walsh (I) and Katie McDonald (I).

On the other side, the team lines up with starters Maura Donnelly (III) and Cassie Kull (III). Tipping the scale are the revolving juniors, who, along with a few other seniors make up the team's "sixth man" (woman); theirs is the embodiment of a team with no selfish players and with no players left behind. Despite a 2-9 start to the season, the team is not deterred from its goal: to give the best performance possible on the court.

Injuries continue to hold the team back. It is a problem with every team, but with the disabilities of captains Gordon, who plays with a taped thumb and wrist, and Jackson, who has suffered from an injured ankle, it is hard for the true skill of this team to be seen. The injuries of key players has allowed Walsh and others to step up and strut their stuff while aiding powerhouse Kristen Stone (I) with added effort and fresh legs. The injuries have also allowed upcoming stars to get some game-time experience in running the offense or helping inside the key. Donnelly and Kull have been given more chances to help than was anticipated, and at times contribute more than their fair share.

With a record that obviously points to the negative, this hungry team has still been able to have a positive number of ups to offset the downs. The high point of the season came when Stone scored 27 points in one outing, aiding a 52-46 win over Concord-Carlisle. An event for the blooper reel emerged when Kull tried so hard for an offensive rebound and basket that she almost put the ball up towards the wrong hoop accidentally.

An armada of juniors is coming off the bench this year and is bound to be next year's starting lineup. With minimal assistance, players like Aquila Browne (I) may very well be the stars of tomorrow, leading a team distinguished by a capable junior varsity sophomore squad. While the influences of Jackson, Stone, and the outgoing seniors will not be forgotten, the future generations seem promising.

Spotlight

Kristen Stone



By Jillian Gordon, I &
Tracey Hannon, I
Contributing Writers

We're sure that many of you have seen her walk down the halls of school. How could you miss a six-foot, curly haired blonde girl? You all have seen her before, but do you know about her incredible basketball talent?

Kristen Stone has played basketball since the second grade, ready to play. Girls, we know that you remember all those ballet classes you took when you were younger. Well, recently someone pulled out an old home video of Kristen and her friends. Everyone sat, watched, and laughed at the four of us in our tutus as we danced in our ballet shoes. The question begs: was Kristen showing the camera first position, second position, or a plié? Nope! She was standing there doing "foot fire." (an important basketball drill.) We have been playing basketball with Kristen since the second grade, and for as long as we can remember she has always been the one to beat. It's just not possible!

When you hear about girls' varsity basketball, we players are sure that most of you just think, "Who cares? I mean, they honestly can't be that good." The team isn't having the best of seasons, but Kristen, she can play! Let's review: she was the starting center on the Latin School varsity team in the eighth grade. Many couldn't believe her ability, especially at such a young age. It was only last week that she was praised in the *Boston Globe* for scoring 27 points in one game. She has been selected as a Dual County League All-Star twice, and has been nominated as league MVP. Basically, she is unstoppable.

Not only is Kristen involved with school basketball, but she is also a basketball coach and league referee at her local community center. She spends her Thursday nights coaching girls in the fifth and sixth grade, teaching them the basics of the game. While most of you are sleeping in on Saturday morning, she is a referee of girls' and boys' basketball games.

You'd think she couldn't be involved with the sport any further, yet she is. She has also played on an AAU basketball team since the sixth grade; she has led her team to be number one in the state for two years in a row. They then went on to take part in the junior national event, and later the nationals. Through her AAU team she has traveled all over the East Coast, from Maine to Washington D.C., where scouts from various colleges have watched her closely and hope to persuade her to play in college on a full scholarship. This September, while visiting colleges, we were able to watch her practice with the Division I Wagner College girls' basketball team. She appeared to be so comfortable in the situation that she immediately "clicked" with the team and showed them her true talents.

Kristen is one of the most talented girls' basketball players this school has ever had. Her skills has allowed her to meet many people and travel to all parts of the country. Basketball is more then a game to Kristen Stone and it will continue to bring her many opportunities. With basketball at her side, she will be able to experience more then you can imagine.

Sports

Out of The Kiddie Pool

By Patricia Hao, II
Staff Writer

For too long people have considered swimming the bane of winter sports, the sport of Speedos, full body shaving, and tedious practices. It's time to rethink that perception of swimming.

Captains Stewart Wing (II), Joe Kane (II) and Jeff Hull (II) of Wolfpack boys' swimming have a lot to be proud of this year, both for their leadership and for the team they have helped assemble. There is a caliber and fervor new to the team, with membership twice that of last year and an enthusiastic new coach. The core of the team is composed of its seven juniors, nearly one-third of the squad. The sheer number of new recruits has proven quite useful. Responsible for the 100 percent increase is the original team itself, which did an amazing job spreading the word. (Remember those guys in white bathrobes hollering on top of tables at the extracurricular fair?)

Another drastic change is the new management. Charlie Peterson, the former assistant baseball coach, has traded in his bats, bases, and assistant-coach title for goggles, diving blocks and the position of head coach. His lack of experience in this sport does not lessen his enthusiasm or the respect of the team—in fact, much of the new and improved attitude this year is due to his fun yet focused coaching style.

Co-captain Hull, Boston Latin's *entire* diving team, was "the one who got everyone together," comments Coach Peterson. Peterson also spoke on his experiences as of yet: "I like the idea of finally being a head coach. I try to bring encouragement, passion, and intensity, but ultimately, I hope to build lasting character at the Murphy School in Dorchester, which is almost an hour away in afternoon traffic." A serious task for the team will be passing down the work ethic and expertise necessary to ensure that teams in subsequent years are equally strong. In general, this is a pretty committed bunch. There is dedication in the air, and no, it's not because of the stench of chlorine. It becomes clear when watching a close race, as swimmers scream from all sides of the pool, cheering on their teammates as competitors vie for first place.



By Leah Skahen, II

While many on the team simply enjoy the sport or the exercise, for Dan Smith (II) "the best thing about swimming is Stewart Wing. Stewart provides the emotional drive needed and is fittingly named 'Father Stewart' for his outstanding leadership and his ability to keep the team motivated—and in check." With three boys close to making the cut for the state championship and with the addition of many gifted younger swimmers, including long distance freestyler James Mealey (III), sprinter Peter Gels (V), and breaststroker David Yasbeck (VI), not only has this year been very successful, but the future also looks highly promising. Other members of the team worth mentioning are backstroker Preston Bays (II), who is known for his speed, St. John Barned-Smith (I), and Jeff Bausemer (II), who can swim in just about every event.

These guys never stop; even as I was interviewing them for this article, they took advantage of another opportunity to spread the legacy. Gentlemen, you've got the floor: "It's not a bogus sport. You don't have to wear Speedos—unless you really want to. It's a lot more physical than you think and there is absolutely no shaving involved. Join the team!"

No Lame Grapple for Wrestling

By St. John Barned-Smith, I
Assistant Sports Editor

In spite of being one of Boston Latin's traditionally smaller teams, Wrestling has been making a considerable amount of noise this year. Led by Brian Nowak (I), the team has put together a very strong core of five boys and possesses substantial talent in its other athletes. It is comprised of a fierce group of athletes who train long after most students go home and start preparing long before most athletes start thinking about preseason practice.

In an interview with Nowak, I learned that the team has been quite successful in recent weeks, defeating the typically-strong Acton-Boxboro team. According to Brian Pastore (I), the team also came very close to beating Weston. Both Pastore and Nowak agree that the team has acquitted itself very well in recent tournaments in Holliston and Canton.

Unlike most teams here at Latin School, wrestling doesn't begin practice until 4 p.m. every day. Warm-ups include lunges, stretches and other various forms of physical torture, followed by circuit training and live wrestling. Coach Gibbons often spends part of each practice teaching newer recruits the more advanced wrestling moves and recapping the team's problem areas after each meet. At the end of practice, everyone goes through a series of shuttle runs or spin drills, in which on wrestler crouches on the floor while the other spins around on his chest. Vomit Comet, anyone? Many of these athletes began preseason preparations in early November, practicing both on their own and in small groups. I often spotted several by the weight room on the way to cross-country practices. Gibbons, who runs the weight room in addition to coaching Wrestling, always gives advice, helps with various elements of training, and creates workouts for them.

As previously mentioned, the team has done well in recent weeks. At the Hopkinton Holiday Tournament, Boston Latin faced off against eight other teams. While the team did not win the tournament, four wrestlers did rank among the top five in their respective weight classes. In the Canton tournament a week later, four wrestlers again placed in the top five. Returning Dual County League All-Star Nowak placed first in his weight class, while Jay O'Brien (II) placed second in his division. Nathan Allukian (II) placed third, as did Steve Armant. The team took seventh place out of 11 overall.

Besides the top four, mentionables include Brian Pastore (I) and Robert Grueter(I), both long-time veterans of the team, who have provided stability and experience to the group this year. In response to a query about the team's future, Nowak responded, "given the team's young age and already evident talent, the future looks promising."



By Tracy Hirshfield, II

Cold as Ice, But on Fire

By Caroline Sullivan, II
Staff Writer

Coming off a 19-2-1 season, the girls' hockey team is ready to reclaim the state title that eluded them last year. Head Coach Marty McDonough and captains Michelle Carter (I), Catherine Foley (II), Katie Balaconis (II) and Amy Katowski (III) hope to lead this year's team into the state tournament. The Wolfpack is working hard to achieve its goal.

Despite the loss of some key players to graduation, the number of talented returning players tips the odds in favor of Boston Latin. As Foley said at the beginning of the season: "Although we've lost four really talented players, I am really confident that this season will be successful. We have had our ups and downs, being a young team with a lot to learn, but we've been there for each other, and nothing will change that. There's nowhere to go but forward, and that's exactly where this team is headed." Forwards Danielle Lacey (I), Jill Mahoney (III), Shannon Devlin (III), Samantha Morrisey (III) and Colleen Doogan (IV) will lead the scoring, while the tight defense of Elizabeth Balaconis (III), Anne Marie Elvin (V), Madison Gilmore (V), and Lily Hansenns (V) will protect Mariella Collins (IV) in the net. Talent radiates from all classes, from seniors to fivesies.

In the first game of the season, against Dual County League rival Westford Academy, the girls started off the season well, beating the Grey Ghosts 3-1. Foley had a pair of goals in the victory. The Wolfpack beat their rival, Fontbonne Academy 6-2, and is currently 8-1-1, tying Woburn and losing to a formidable Dedham team. They face a challenging second half of the season, with two games against Lincoln-Sudbury and a rematch with Fontbonne. The girls finish out the regular season with a game over February vacation against Canton.

These girls, however, have put in the practice time. With all their determination, they should beat these teams. This young and hardworking group of girls will once again show that they are one of the best teams at Latin School, and they will not only strive for their goals, but achieve them as well.



BY KATIE CHONG, I

Rose *Finally* Comes Clean

By Andrew Rabkin, I
Staff Writer

Pete Rose was undoubtedly one of the most exciting and aggressive players who ever played the game of baseball, famous for his head-first slides and his passion for the sport. One of the Major League Baseball's all-time leading hitters, Rose, known as "Charlie Hustle," had a record 4,256 career hits and hit safely in 44 straight games in 1978, tying the all-time National League record. Rose was also named National League's Most Valuable Player in 1973 and Batting Champion in 1968, 1969, and 1973. He spent the majority of his career playing for the Cincinnati Reds (1963-1978), but also played for the Philadelphia Phillies (1979-1983). He ended his playing career after the 1986 season and continued to manage the Reds through the 1989 season.

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner Bart Giamatti banned Rose from baseball for life, based on evidence that Rose violated rule 21, subsection D of the baseball rules by betting on baseball games, although Rose has denied these accusations. Rose was fined and imprisoned for five months the following year after pleading guilty to two counts of falsifying federal income tax returns. Rose may have done great things on the field, but nearly everything in which he was involved outside of the baseball diamond took a turn for the worse.

What's the big deal? Why not restore Rose to the world of baseball and make him eligible for the Hall of Fame? Rose has publicly lied about his betting on for 14 years and it is only recently that he finally decided to come clean. Is this a role model and athlete we want to place alongside the greats in Cooperstown, men like Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron? There were eight members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox accused of making arrangements to throw the World Series and allow the Cincinnati Reds to win the championship. They were subsequently banned from baseball for life. Should not Rose's lifetime banishment stand as well? Is Rose only confessing and publishing his autobiography, My Prison Without Bars, to convince Commissioner Bud Selig to restore him to the game of baseball and make him eligible for the Hall of Fame? It is clearly stated in the election rules of the National Baseball Hall of Fame that "any player on Baseball's ineligible list shall not be an eligible candidate" for consideration. Pete Rose was placed on this list in 1989. Why should one even reevaluate Rose's situation?

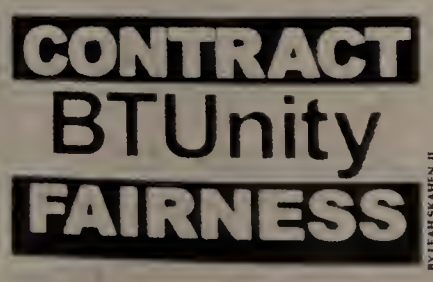
On the other hand, does Pete Rose not deserve forgiveness for his confession? He has shown remorse for his actions and has recognized his gambling problem. Rose confessed his mistake of betting on the game, stating that he bore the guilt of "not coming clean a lot earlier." Shouldn't major league baseball overlook Rose's personal problems and judge him solely on his baseball talent? After all, Rose was one of the game's greatest hitters of all time. Isn't the entire purpose of the Baseball Hall of Fame to honor the accomplishments of its players? Rose obviously regrets what he did and loves the game of baseball. Rose responded when asked about the impact his lifetime ban from baseball by the Associated Press: "It cost me my dignity, it cost me my respect, it cost me a lot of money, it cost me a managerial job with the Cincinnati Reds. I mean, it cost me everything." Everyone makes mistakes. Doesn't Rose deserve a break?

Perhaps Pete Rose's confession does merit forgiveness. Pete Rose made many outstanding accomplishments on the baseball diamond that warrant his acceptance into the Hall of Fame, but his personal life and gambling addiction outside of baseball do not help his chances for forgiveness. Should Pete Rose be given a second chance? You decide.

BTU Battles for Contract

continued from page 1

wish to perform unnecessary formalities that do not help their students. Flynn feels that the protests have had "no effect" on Boston Latin students, because "teachers are doing everything they can to make the best effort," noting that extracurricular events and clubs are still adequately staffed and recommendations are still being written by the teachers. Jackie Sullivan (III) says that "[the teachers] have every right to do what they want." Her thoughts are echoed by Wen Lo (II), who believes that "they deserve the right to protest, because Boston Public Schools doesn't pay them enough." But Leah Cornish (II) says that she is "not a fan of the union, because it doesn't really help the students," but understands that



BY LEAH SKAFEN, II

"[the teachers] have to live off something." Daniel Kelly (II) feels that "if they protest but come into school on time then they aren't going to accomplish anything." Other students are torn between both arguments. One such student, Max Macrides (III) says that he is "with them in spirit, but there's just no money for anything."

It is important to emphasize that "Boston Latin has a long history of strong union involvement." says Ms. Devin, adding that "our former headmaster and current Chief Operating Officer, Michael Contompasis, was one of the key organizers of the Boston Teachers' Union strike in the 1970s." Mr. Contompasis was one of the leaders of the strike, and was directly involved with it. "Mr. Flynn was also a strong BTU advocate and BTU building rep before he became an assistant headmaster," she says. This is because once a teacher becomes an administrator, they cannot be a member of the Teachers' Union.

The key for the teachers to reach a fair contract is to show that "teachers are united and determined to settle a fair and equitable contract", says Ms. Devin. In short, all the teachers need is BTUnity.

Spotlight
Kevin Bernazzan


MIKE RYAN, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Kassandra Skipper, I
Assistant Sports Editor

When he isn't watching Billy Ma
or Old School, quoting Dumb and Du
or hanging with his lifelong West Ro
buddies, Kevin Bernazanni can on
found in one place: at Boston Latin,
ticing hard and leading his teams. Ke
been playing sports in his community
the fifth grade and has been a part o
Wolfpack since the ninth. He played o
junior varsity soccer team in freshma
sophomore year, and on the varsity te
junior and senior year. Kevin was one
captains this year, and the team manag
make this a memorable season. He ha
worked his way up from freshman bask
to the junior varsity and varsity team
was the captain of the varsity team this
Kev has played junior varsity baseball
freshman and sophomore days, and pla
run track this coming spring.

Outside of school, Kevin is a
tive part of his community on other s
teams. He played basketball for the C
town YMCA under the alias "Thund
Snowflake" on the Hurricanes last
The team earned a 13-0 record and
the league championship. He also pl
baseball on the Silverhawks, a team ru
of West Roxbury for the past two years
has been playing Parkway Youth Soccer
he was very young and now he occasio
referees. His leadership abilities exten
beyond school. He is an active memb
his parish community at St. Theresa's
lector and as president of the CYO.

The boys' varsity basketball
has had a great season so far (record o
While Kevin doesn't get the most pl
time, he leads the team in other ways.
Michel (II) explains it well: "Beside
fact that he's great-looking, he k
what he's doing on and off the court.
a great leader, and when times are g
bad at practice, it's always Kevin who
up and makes the whole team play b
Without Kev we'd be lost." Kevin give
percent at practice, constantly pushing
encouraging the team onward and up
Being a part of a team requires ability
skill, but just as crucial is one's spirit
heart. Kevin possesses a caring and thou
ful nature that is evident to every memb
his team and as a result, even if he only
for a few minutes, he often has a grou
kids cheering him. The team has had
incidents this season; Kevin has neve
less held the group together. In fact, y
probably heard him in the halls promo
the "W-unit," yelling at everyone to
to the games. If you haven't heard him
couldnt have missed him at the pep
posing as a big purple "Jim Box."

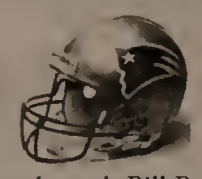
I've been good friends with Ke
three years now and he is without a d
one of the nicest guys at Latin. He's al
there to listen, to offer suggestions a
help whenever needed. Peter Lyons (I
fectionately explains the impact Kevi
on the team and how he is respected not
as an athlete, but also as a person: "Not
is Kevin our captain and emotional le
he is a good person, not just a good atl
We know he is involved in three diff
sports and many other activities. He i
true definition of a student athlete, exce
in school, sports, and life."

Come to one of the games and c
the W-unit on! The senior start game
February 16th and Kevin will want t
you there!

Super Bowl Special



HOUSTON, WE HAVE A SHOWDOWN



By Adam Fleischer, III
Staff Writer

In week one, thirty-two NFL teams n competing for a chance to play in the :r Bowl, the holy grail of professional ball. Those teams have now been nar-:d down to two. Two hard-nosed de-es. Two ever-efficient, overachieving terbacks. Two brilliant head coaches. ɔ in Super Bowl XXXVIII has the ad-age: the New England Patriots or the ɔlina Panthers? It is hard to tell, and ɔk at the teams' last meeting doesn't much either: in 2001, the Patriots won and went on to win the Super Bowl, e Carolina finished 1-15 and has since ıged dramatically. The teams aren't .liar with one another. So what are the to victory?

All teams that reach thc ultimate e must stick with the plans that have ed them reach that level of play. Car-a is no exception: they rely on great nse, a strong running attack, and solid ormances from quarterback Jake Del-ıme, an undrafted former NFL Europe player. This formula has helped them jump out of the gate earlier in the season, with a 5-0 record propelled by running back Stephen Davis. Although he has amassed nearly 1,500 rushing yards, Davis was injured in the playoffs, and emerging star DeShaun Foster has done an excellent job carrying the load as a backup when needed. The two-week pre-game period should be enough time for Davis to get up to full strength; along with Foster, Carolina will try to pound away at the Patriots with a two-headed running attack.

When the Panthers pass, Delhomme will attempt to connect with big-play receivers Steve Smith and Muhsin Muhammad. Muhammad had a key touchdown reception in the NFC championship game versus Philadelphia, while Smith, with 324 yards, leads all players in playoff receiving yards. Ty Law will most likely be covering Smith, the makings of an interesting match up. In the AFC championship, Law, with the help of his defense teammates, shut down Marvin Harrison, the best receiver in the league, holding him to three catches. It will also be interesting to see how the Panthers deal with the fierce level of play of the Patriots' defensive backs.

On the other side, New England's running game shouldn't cause the Panthers defense to lose sleep. Passing, however, may be a different story. Led by Tom Brady, New England's passing attack was ranked as ninth-best during the regular season. Brady's numerous and capable receivers will undoubtedly be able to aid him as he attacks the Panthers' eighth-ranked defense. The Patriot offensive line must also step up as it confronts one of the best defensive lines in the league, led by former second overall pick Julius Peppers.

As good as the Carolina defense is, the Patriots' was still ranked higher during the regular season, at seventh overall. New England possesses a 14-game winning streak going into the big game, a feat impossible without a terrific defense. Twice during that amazing winning streak the team has scored 12 points, once just nine. Nevertheless, in those three games the defense allowed the opposing teams a total of three points each. It is clear that the defense is an important asset to the Patriots' success.

A vital element to each team is its coaching. Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and Panthers head coach John Fox are known for their reputation as defensive masters. Belichick's great planning has played a key role in New England's possession of one of the best defenses in the league, helping to propel their team to the Super Bowl with no more than two or three star players. John Fox has been the main reason that Carolina has gone from being a team with the worst record in the League to a Super Bowl contender in just two years. This coaching match up may well be the most intriguing of all.

After a defensive and offensive comparison, no one can deny that both teams made it to Houston because of skill. Nevertheless, only one team can boast the title of champion on February 1. The Patriots have a better quarterback. The Panthers boast a superior running attack. Defensively, New England has a slight edge. The same edge, statistically, goes to the Patriots on coaching. The final score should be nearly even, but, you guessed it: New England with a slight edge.

Who will win Sunday? My prediction: Patriots 20, Panthers 16.

n Down Stats					FIRST DOWNS				THIRD DOWNS				FOURTH DOWNS				PENALTIES	
	YDS	RUSH	PASS	PTS	TOT	RUSH	PASS	PEN	MADE	ATT	PCT	MADE	ATT	PCT	TOT	YDS
nsive	321.3	130.9	190.4	20.3	284	114	146	24	78	219	35.6	6	11	54.5	116	966
onents	295.3	107.6	187.7	19.0	274	83	161	30	78	225	34.7	5	16	31.3	111	1011

ing Statistics													
IE	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YDS/A	LNG	TD	TD%	INT	INT%	SACK	YDS	RAT
Delhomme	266	449	3219	59.2	7.17	67	19	4.2	16	3.6	24	172	80.6

ing Statistics							
IE	ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
hen Davis	318	1444	4.5	40	8	3	3
haun Foster	113	429	3.8	21	0	1	1

iving Statistics							
IE	REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
e Smith	88	1110	12.6	67	7	2	0
sin Muhammad	54	837	15.5	60	3	3	1
y Proehl	27	389	14.4	66	4	0	0

Statistics	Tackles					Miscellaneous		Interceptions					
IE	TOT	SOLO	AST	SACK	TLOSS	FF	BK	INT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	PD
Witherspoon	97	74	23	1.0	5.5	0	0	1	10	10.0	10	0	5
e Minter	89	74	15	0.0	2.5	0	1	3	100	33.0	35	2	8
n Grant	77	68	9	1.0	3.5	0	0	3	25	8.0	25	0	12
g Favors	76	61	15	0.0	5	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1
Morgan	66	47	19	0.0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1

Team Down Stats					FIRST DOWNS				THIRD DOWNS				FOURTH DOWNS				PENALTIES	
	YDS	RUSH	PASS	PTS	TOT	RUSH	PASS	PEN	MADE	ATT	PCT	MADE	ATT	PCT	TOT	YDS
Offensive	314.9	100.4	214.5	21.8	294	91	177	26	84	227	37.0	6	14	42.9	111	998
Opponents	291.6	89.6	202.0	14.9	293	91	177	25	81	235	34.5	6	16	37.5	107	845

Passing Statistics													
NAME	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YDS/A	LNG	TD	TD%	INT	INT%	SACK	YDS	RAT
Tom Brady	317	527	3620	60.2	6.87	82	23	4.4	12	2.3	32	219	85.9

Rushing Statistics							
NAME	ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
Antowain Smith	182	642	3.5	30	3	0	0
Kevin Faulk	178	638	3.6	23	0	3	3

Receiving Statistics							
NAME	REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
Deion Branch	57	803	14.1	66	3	0	0
David Givens	34	510	15.0	57	6	0	0
Troy Brown	40	472	11.8	82	4	0	0

Defensive Statistics	Tackles					Miscellaneous		Interceptions					
NAME	TOT	SOLO	AST	SACK	TLOSS	FF	BK	INT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	PD
Tedy Bruschi	128	81	47	2.0	5.5	3	0	3	26	8.0	18	2	14
Rodney Harrison	125	94	31	3.0	6	2	0	3	0	0.0	2	0	11
Roman Phifer	100	68	32	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	5
Ty Law	74	62	12	0.0	0	0	0	6	112	18.0	65	1	23
Willie McGinest	67	48	19	5.5	5.5	2	0	1	15	15.0	15	1	4

COURTESY OF ESPN

Fourteen Down, One To Go

By Luke Liu, II
Staff Writer

Unlikc in the Cinderclla season of ı, the New England Patriots are favoritcs /in Super Bowl XXXVIII, their second hree years. Plagued by injuries and thc of key players earlier in the season, no would ever have expected the Pats to ɛe the post-season, much less own the ;uc's best record. Miraculously, however, r posting a 2-2 mark four weeks into the ;on, thc Patriots won their last twelve ılar-season games in a row. They contin-to earn respect, winning two straight /off games against the fiercc Titans and explosivc Colts, and now look to capture ther Super Bowl victory on Sunday.

Avid Patriots fans remember many ments in this magical scason. In week r, the Pats lost a tough gamc against an lerachieving Washington team. On a rth-and-three play on the Redskins' 38-Hinc, the Patriots, down by three points, ed to go for a long pass downfield rather n attempt a long field goal. Thc pass went ɔmplete, and the Pats wound up losing 17-dropping their record to .500, at 2-2.

In the following two home games, the riots proceeded to defeat both the Titans Giants, but had some trouble against Dolphins, a fierce division rival. On the t play in overtime, Tom Brady connected h Troy Brown deep to give the Patriots ir first-ever win in the month of October. ey finished the season on a twelve-game ning streak, setting a franchise record.



COURTESY OF OFFICIAL PATRIOTS WEBSITE

PATRIOTS OWNER BOB KRAFT

A highlight in thc Patriots season came against the Indianapolis Colts, in a game that went down to the wire. Trailing 38-34, the Colts had a first-and-goal with thirty seconds left to play. New England had no timeouts remaining, the game rested on the shoulders of the defense. On fourth-and-goal from the one-yard line, linebacker Willie McGinest stopped Colts running back Edgerrin James for no gain, sealing the Patriots victory. Another bright spot for the team came in the last week of the season, in which the Patriots had an opportunity to avenge their opening day loss against the Bills. Now much improved, the Patriots defeated the Bills easily with a decisive 31-0 victory and sccured home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Ironically, in thcir loss to the Bills, they had suffered defeat by the same score, 31-0.

Like so many of the other New England games, the Patriots found countless ways to win in the post-season. In a subsequent 17-14 victory against the Titans, led by co-MVP Steve McNair, the Pats advanced to facc the Colts. In the next game, the Patriots effortlessly shut the league's top passer, Peyton Manning. Intercepting four passes (three by Pro-Bowl cornerback Ty Law), the Patriots defcnsc harassed the offense, embarrassed thc Colts defense, and gave Manning one of his worst losses ever. That win gave the Patriots a berth in the Super Bowl this year in Houston, Texas.

On paper though, the Patriots do not resemble the 16-2 team that they are. Their team has ten rookics, five of whom spent a lot of time on thc playing field. Morcover, the Patriots do not have thc flashy, big-name players like those on the Colts, Chiefs, and Broncos, the Patriots do not havc onc person who always makes the plays, but rather, have a team that works together to produce amazing rcsults. Hence, only two of their players, Richard Seymour and Ty Law, werc voted to play in this ycar's Pro-Bowl. Willie McGinest was added to the list later as an injury replacement.

All the players are responsible for the team's success this season. Tom Brady is having another great year while Deion Branch has emerged as one of the top receivers. Cornerback Ty Law has become one of the best backs in the lcague. Perhaps this ycar's team MVP award should go to Safety Rodney Harrison, acquired earlicr this season from thc Chargers. Although this is only his first ycar with the Patriots, he has become one of the team's leaders. He consistently makes plays, including a key interception in a previous battle against the Colts, which helped sct the tone for the rcst of the gamc.

One other element crucial to the team's success is its immaculatc coaching. Head Coach Belichick is one of the league's top coaches and is renowned as a defensive genius. Offensive Coordinator Charlie Weis has again put together a formidable offense, which, although not as fancy as othcrs, always riscs to the occasion. Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel confuses ncarly every team with countless schemes and formations. He is thc mastermind behind thc defense, which has allowed the fewcst points in the league. Both Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel are regarded as two of thc best coordinators in thc league, and many tcams are considering them as possible Head Coachcs. Next year both could leave to become head coaches for other teams.

Despite all the success the team has had this ycar, all the players know that they have to win one morc game. They hope to win the Super Bowl against the Carolina Panthers, an ovcrachieving team that in many respects is vcry similar to the Patriots. A win on Sunday gives the Patriots their second championship in the last three years and would establish a Patriots "dynasty." Maybe a Super Bowl win can relieve the hcartbreak many Boston area fans felt late last year

Boston Latin School
ARGO

On-site reporting from Spring Training

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Disaster and Confusion in Haiti

By Aaron Sunstein, II
Staff Writer

On February 29, President Jean Betrand Aristide left Haiti for a "temporary" stay in the Central African Republic. How exactly it was that he left the country is disputed. The official American position is that Aristide willingly delivered a letter of resignation and accepted his exile with the transportation provided by American aircraft. But on the telephone with the Associated Press and CNN, Aristide relayed a very different version of Sunday morning's events. Aristide said he had been toppled in an American led "coup d'état", had been forced out at gunpoint and had never been told where he and his wife would be relocated. It does seem clear that Aristide was forced out. Or, if indeed he did resign, it was a resignation made under pressure from the United States.



COURTESY OF WWW.HAITIINFO.COM

The current conflict in Haiti has been brewing for many years and the United States has played a key role in much of the recent history. Aristide, the first democratically elected president in Haitian history was elected in 1990. Seven months after taking office, he was deposed in a military coup; it was later revealed by the *New York Times* that the officers who led the coup were on the CIA payroll. Finally, after three years of bloody military rule, President Clinton sent 20,000 American troops to Haiti to reinstall Aristide. Frustrated with the lack of democratic reforms, and by what many perceived to be rigged legislative elections in 2000, a new coalition of opponents has emerged, including disgruntled former members of the Haitian army (which Aristide dissolved) and the political opposition to Aristide's party.

The forces of the rebellion are only loosely connected, and unable to unify behind any larger goal aside from deposing Aristide. Two key leaders are Guy Philippe, a former soldier and police chief who leads rebels from Cap-Haitien in the North, and Butter Metayer, who leads troops from the city of Gonaives. Other leaders of the recent rebellion, including convicted murderer Louis-Jodel Chamblain, were involved in the military dictatorship of 1991-1994.

The recent violence began with anti-government demonstrations that gradually became more and more violent as rebel groups and Aristide supporters clashed. Rebel groups have occupied more and more of the country, the situation culminating in the fall of Port-au-Prince, the capital, upon Aristide's departure Sunday. A multinational United Nations force of around 5,000 troops is gradually being deployed and there are already 1,000 American troops in the country, but their activity so far has been mostly limited to securing international buildings in the capital.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Port-au-Prince and throughout Haiti, the violence has escalated substantially. More than 130 people have died already, and organizations have warned of a coming humanitarian crisis because relief supply lines have been blocked in the conflict by numerous groups. Haiti was already the poorest country in Latin America and according to World Food Program spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume, the violence was affecting the delivery of basic food supplies to at least 270,000 people. Many are worried about the possibility of another mass exodus from Haiti, similar to that of 1994, when thousands tried to reach the Florida coast. The Bush administration has made it clear that it will not grant asylum to Haitian refugees. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Coast Guard has already repatriated 867 refugees trying to reach the Florida coast, an act that HRW says is against international law due to the situation in Haiti.

The Bush administration was at first reluctant to become involved in the conflict, saying that a security agreement could only be reached if Aristide and rebel leaders brokered a political agreement first, but the situation deteriorated to the extent that a major policy change occurred. According to Ruthzee Louijieune (I) and Nivdarla Anselme (I), many in the Haitian community believe that George Bush Sr. was involved in the 1991 military coup of Aristide and that George W. Bush is simply "continuing his father's work" by rendering moot Clinton's action to install Aristide in 1994. Both Louijieune and Anselme insist that the United States has an obligation to grant asylum to Haitian refugees, especially now. "My aunts and uncles have been trying to get here ever since my parents came in 1987, but it has just been impossible," said Anselme.

It is difficult to know what kind of government will emerge in Haiti after the chaos of the past few weeks. Yesterday rebel leader Guy Philippe stated that he has ordered his forces to lay their arms down now that a multinational force has arrived, and presumably the United Nations and the United States have a commitment to ensuring that a democratic government will emerge after the crisis, but revenge killings have not stopped. As of March 4 it is unclear whether the vestiges of the Aristide government, including Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, will remain in place, or whether rebels will demand more power. Despite the current situation, many have expressed the hope that Haiti will exist as a nation befitting its history as the first black country independent from European rule.

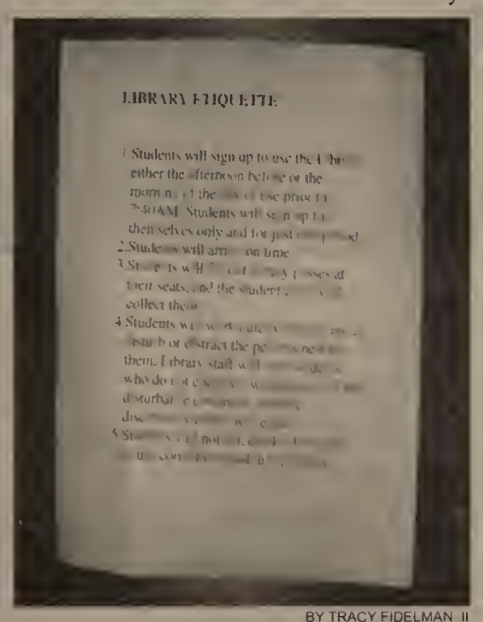
Library's New Focus: Rules, Not Reading

By Ashlyn Garry, III
Staff Writer

A library is supposed to be a place of quiet study and education; a place where scholars of all ages can come to discuss topics with one another and to learn. But more and more students at Boston Latin School are finding that these activities are harder to do at the Keefe Library.

The goal of the Keefe Library is to promote "information and literacy for all, says the library staff. Essentially, this means that "every student will gain the ability to access, evaluate and use information from a variety of sources." But some students feel the means of achieving this goal are overshadowing the true purpose of the library. The "rules", or "library etiquette", which are, according to library staff, "designed to enable students and staff to utilize the vast resources available in the library", can seem too severe.

One female member of the senior class, who wished to remain anonymous, received three days of detention for not signing up because it was considered "cutting class". She even goes as far to say that "kids fear the library" and that it is no longer "an academic resource". When the librarians chastised her for not signing up, they were, in her opinion, "caught up in the system" and "very rude". According to this senior, she is not alone because "[the librarians] have punished at least three seniors." A student of Class V who also wished to remain anonymous said, "I was banned from the library for third term for 'socializing'. How stupid is that?" Although he admits that he was having a "quiet conversation", such a severe punishment was not warranted. In fact, students argue that they ought to be able to talk if it is a necessary and quiet conversation.



BY TRACY FIDELMAN II

Even students who use the library but haven't gotten into trouble complain that the rules are too extreme. Theresa Lau (III) feels that the library rules are "too strict on some things, and not strict enough on others". She says that the library ignores the fact that many people print without paying, but "pesters" those who do pay. Fatima Litim (III) says, "I think the rules are a little too strict because it's our library and we should be able to do what we please in it." Roseanne Doyle (III) disagrees with the referring to the librarians' "speak-and-you-die rule", which demands that the library is silent.

The library staff says that they are "constantly encouraging students to use the valuable print and non-print resources available in the Keefe Library," and that rules were created to manage hordes of students. But if some students, such as Luigi DePasquale (IV), have "never been" to the library at Boston Latin School, and "never will", the rules may be too indiscriminate. John Walsh, another disenfranchised member of the freshman class, hasn't "been to the library at all this year."

It seems as if all at once, more people are receiving punishments for breaking the rules of the library. This could be because the library staff makes "students who have library research to do" their "first priority".

Complaints from students who say that they cannot sign up for the library or work there because of noise have caused librarians to become "even more vigilant about library rules," say the library staff. And, with "an average of 700 students using the library each day", the librarians have found that "these rules are necessary to enable all [students] to complete work efficiently and effectively." Instead of allowing students to sign up for an R1 study on the preceding afternoon, the sign up will be held for the same day, in order to give every student an equal opportunity. But a junior complains that "morning signups are unfair because students come from all over Boston and arrive at different times in the morning. I can't use the library because I don't get here in time to sign up." One senior even suggested allowing "upperclassmen to sign up at the library during a study" to ensure that every student has an opportunity to use the library and its wealth of resources.

There is no doubt that Harry V. Keefe, '39, gave a very generous donation that "enabled us to enjoy a state-of-the-art library media center with resources rivaling those of any preparatory school and many colleges in the nation," says the library staff. The rules are in place because it is "our responsibility to use and preserve these resources for future Latin school students." But it has become apparent to many students that these rules are actually hindering those who want to use the library constructively.

News

Summertime and the Living Ain't Easy

By Kira Sargent, III
Staff Writer

To many it may seem like the summer is for relaxing, but on any given day last summer hundreds of Boston Latin School students were working and volunteering around Boston, gaining many skills and experiences to help them throughout the rest of their lives. The variety and quantity of programs available is enough to satisfy almost anyone: locations range from office buildings to college classrooms, to Fenway Park. The pay and hours vary as much as the setting, with community service hours, stipends, and full- and part-time positions.

Students who participate in summer programs can acquire real work experience, learn about several careers hands-on, develop work and communication skills, and get into "networking, networking, networking", as Ms. Bateman of the PIC (Boston Private Industry Counsel) office puts it. Working in their intended fields now helps students decide whether or not a certain career might be enjoyable for them. It also connects them with professionals who can become mentors and help with applications and recommendations.

Despite all of the advantages, many people do not partake of the available programs simply because they do not know about them. The two major sources at Boston Latin for finding out about summer or year round opportunities are the PIC and guidance offices.

The PIC office was founded to connect students with employers in order to create meaningful relationships within the city; therefore, it is the place to go when looking for jobs, volunteering, or internships. The following are among the programs in which BLS students can participate:

Various jobs are available at Fenway Park (concessions and grounds crew), John Hancock Financial Services, Oxfam America, The New England Board of Higher Education, several law offices, swimming pools (lifeguards and teachers), camp counselors, community centers and libraries.

Members of Classes II and I can apply for the John William Ward Fellowship in the offices of various city officials and politicians.

Office and research assistants are needed at Harvard University, in the Holyoke Center, at the Graduate School of Design and at the School of Public Health.

Internships are offered in all departments of State Street Bank, from human resources to cash sweep, with over 80 positions available to Latin School students.

Research internships are also available at the Forsyth Institute, where students conduct an experiment with a mentor.

An example of how summer work can help over the course of the school year is Emily Yuan (II). She has worked at the Forsyth Institute for the past two summers and it has been "a real work experience" working 40 hours a week and receiving a stipend at the end of the summer. Last year, she used the experiment she conducted as her school science project and won the first prize at the Massachusetts State Science Fair. She went on to participate in the National Science Fair.

The guidance office focuses on the academic opportunities available to students. A great deal of colleges offer classes designed for high school students or allow them to enter their regular classes, some of which give college credit. The Lowell Scholarship Program at Harvard is specifically designed for people in the secondary school education system (students, teachers, or administrators) to take college level courses at Harvard. There are several other opportunities to travel out of state and live on college campuses: Yale University, Brandeis University, University of Pennsylvania, and others out west. Many students receive community service hours and college credit for their attendance.

Besides those found within the PIC and guidance offices, many times the best resources for volunteering opportunities in your neighborhood are your friends and relatives. Kim Phan (III) "helped bring patients' files around a clinic, The Dorchester House," a community center where her father works. When asked whether or not the experience was worth it, considering she wasn't paid, Kim replied, "Yes, I met a lot of doctors and got a lot of advice from them about becoming a doctor and what it was like for them, and I think I'm going to do it again this summer." Ms. Zita Cousens of the Guidance Department highly recommends volunteering as an excellent way to enhance your exposure to careers and the real world. However, she wants students to realize that doing any activity just for "your record," be it a club or volunteer program, is very insincere and shallow; generally, guidance counselors can see through it.

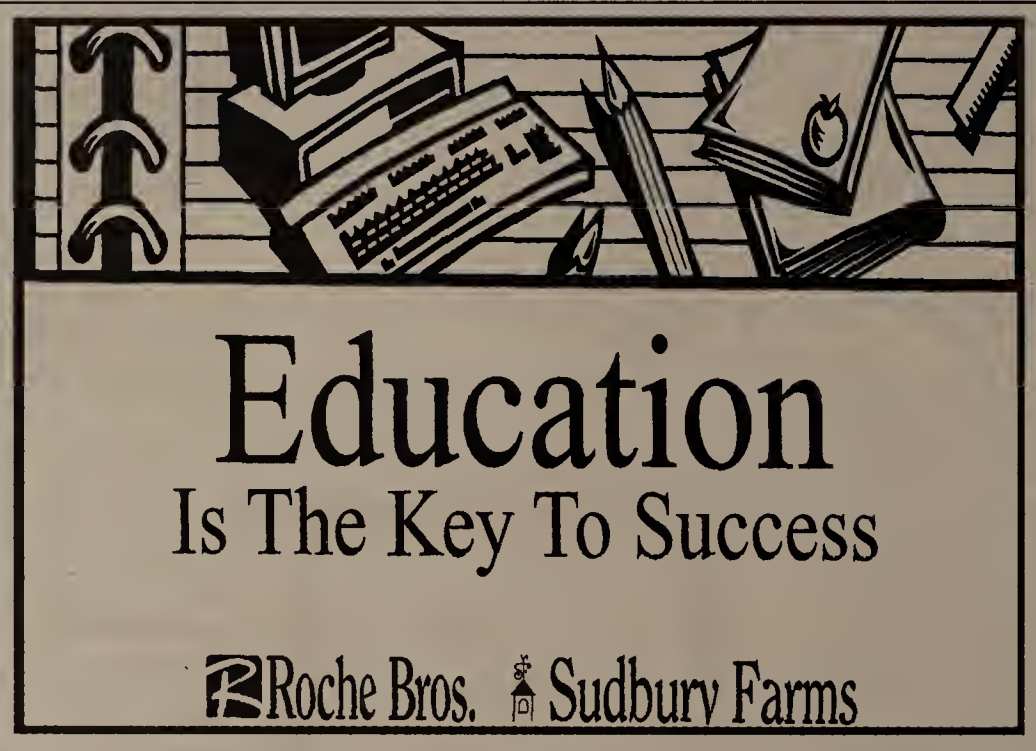
Many students haven't heard about most of the available programs because they don't know it is their responsibility to look for them. The guidance office posts any information they receive on their web site with a separate page for members of Classes I and II, and some information is also placed within the guidance office at school. If a student is interested in participating in a program but is unable to make a choice, they should talk to Ms. Bateman in the PIC office or see a guidance counselor soon. Now is the time to find out application requirements such as age, grades, attendance, recommendations and essays, even if the summer seems eons away.

Join the *Argo* Staff!

2004-5 Editorial Board Positions Are Now Available

The *Argo* is now accepting applications for positions on the editorial board for the 2004-2005 school year. If you are interested in bringing your editorial or technical skill to the *Argo*, please get an application from Mr. Flynn's office (across from Room 114), the guidance office, or the main office.

All applications must be submitted in the Argo box in the main office or delivered to Muching Zhang (HR 125) by Monday, April 5, 2004.



Boston Latin School
ARGO

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR
BOSTON, MA 02115

Mission Statement
Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Food Column: La Famiglia Giorgio

By Lin Ma, I
Food Columnist

La Famiglia Giorgio
250 Newbury St, Boston, MA.
(617) 247-1569
Transportation: Green line, Copley Station
Cuisine Type: Italian
Class: 7/10
Ambiance: 6/10
Cleanliness: 8/10
Service: 9/10
Quality: 8/10
Value: 7/10

La Famiglia Giorgio is a gem of an Italian eatery that's literally buried underground by the myriad of restaurants on Newbury Street, making it hard to spot. Nevertheless, business has been booming since the summer of 1990. After one visit it's not difficult to see why. Good food at reasonable prices served in heaping portions and a friendly staff takes this restaurant above the norm. The inside resembles the architecture of a brick-oven, walls cemented with brick up to the ceiling. Upbeat, guitar accented music bops in the background, but it's unnoticeable on a busy night when patrons are merrily chatting in the fairly small space. A courteous wait-staff takes you to a seat in one of the small tables, ready to serve as soon as you've chosen from the medley on the menu.

While you wait for your meal, a basket of bread (not freshly-baked) is brought to your table. Butter and olive oil are available upon asking. If you're in the mood for soft and buttery garlic bread, a dish I was craving, then the one served at La Famiglia Giorgio is not for you. The garlic bread ($3.95, melted mozzarella for another dollar) is seasoned with garlic and parsley, and toasted until ultra crunchy—not the savory bites I had in mind. Fountain drinks are fairly inexpensive ($1.50). The classic Shirley Temple is served at the same price, as is its Coke counterpart, the Roy Roger.

Pasta sauces are the highlights of the menu. Fra Diavolo Clams ($12.95 for a regular) over linguine is delicious for those who want a spicy twist on their marinara. The freshly prepared tomato sauce is combined with clam juice to boost the flavor of the fresh seafood. A dozen littleneck clams are steamed and tossed with the spicy jalapeño infused sauce. Sips of water at regular intervals are essential for those who can't tolerate the heat, but love the tingly burn of spicy foods.

The Chicken Marsala ($12.95) with ziti is also a savory choice. Sautéed chicken tenderloins and thick slices of mushrooms are cooked in a sweet Marsala wine, simmered until only a thick caramel sauce remains. Although the chicken tends to be dry and flavorless in the center, the wine sauce's flavor is still concentrated enough to liven the tastebuds. Prior to every bite, whether it contains the ziti, chicken, or both, a dip of the delicious sauce is mandatory, or else you will taste the equivalent of a bland microwave dinner.



If you're in the mood for something creamy and even more filling than pasta, then the La Famiglia Special with Chicken and Veal ($14.95) is an option, although not a very promising one. Homemade tri-color tortellini filled with cheese and herbs is mixed with a super creamy, although somewhat bland, pesto alfredo sauce. The sauce is this dish's greatest disappointment, as you can barely taste the basil of the pesto. Sautéed chunks of chicken, veal, mushrooms and onions top the dish. The chicken is not dry, but the veal is chewy and difficult to bite off, although it's understandable since veal is a delicate meat that's often overcooked. A quick grind from the peppermill is beneficial to this creation, perking up the flavors.

Each individual order arrives in a ceramic bowl, but don't expect any extraordinary effort on presentation. It's difficult to complete a whole platter on your own since the restaurant serves large portions. The best thing to do is eat your fill that night and doggie-bag the rest—reheated leftovers are even tastier. Whether you eat in or take-out, La Famiglia Giorgio is a hearty option for those looking for a satisfying meal with a few extra dollars in their wallets.



BY BURTON SHEN (II) AND JOHNSON TRAN (II)



BY BURTON SHEN (II) AND JOHNSON TRAN (II)

Primary Focus

By Linda Zheng, IV & Trude Raizen, II
Contributing Writer & Asst. News Editor

March 2, 2004 was an exciting and cisive day in American politics. Better own as "Super Tuesday", it was on this te that ten different states (Vermont, assachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecti-t, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Georgia, w York and California) representing 51 delegates voted on whom to send to Democratic presidential nominating nvention. The competition to run as the mocratic candidate for president this vember had dwindled from ten confi-nt contenders to a showdown between n Kerry, the Massachusetts Senator who ady held a commanding lead, and John wards, the self-made lawyer who rose m humble roots to become the senator North Carolina. Despite former Vermont ernor Howard Dean's sudden and surprising rise to the top in the beginning of this primary season, his losses at and after the Iowa caucuses resulted in his decision to bow out. Before March 2, five others had left the race as well.

Edwards had proven himself capable of competition for Kerry after finishing second in the Wisconsin primary, being only six points behind the Massachusetts senator. Edwards also emphasized the poll results, which stated that if he were to run against George W. Bush tomorrow, he would beat the current president. But on "Super Tuesday", Edwards was not able to shift Kerry's momentum, and the next day he decided to leave the race, or "suspend" his candidacy and endorse Kerry. Now he can only hope to find himself as a candidate for Vice President.

Kerry is now the obvious nominee for the Democrats' presidential candidate. He predictably drew 72 percent of the votes in Massachusetts, and lost only in Vermont, where former Governor Howard Dean won his only state despite dropping out of the race on February 18. He has 1557 delegates, and needs only 605 of the remaining two thousand. Bush even called him Tuesday night to extend a congratulatory message that was unlikely heartfelt. Kerry's campaign has shifted its focus entirely to the national front, and he will soon select a running mate. They plan to make the Democratic National Convention in Kerry's home state "the best convention ever," said Kerry's spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter. Nevertheless, Rev. Al Sharpton and Ohio Democrat Dennis Kucinich are still clinging to the race adamantly, hoping to draw attention to their agendas and possibly influence democratic policy.

Bush ran unopposed in the Republican primary, and it is just a formality that he needs only 300 more delegates to garner the nomination. The Bush campaign has swung into full gear, rolling out television ads in eighteen key states.

Older students looking forward to November need to know that they cannot simply walk into a polling place, wait in line, and pull a lever. To participate in this election in Massachusetts, voters must be at least 18 years old by the election date, a legal resident of Massachusetts, and a citizen of the United States. Those eligible to vote must have registered in person or by mail 20 days prior to the election date at their city election office, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, their schools, or any of the numerous other locations where forms are available. Currently, Massachusetts does not enable its voters to register online. On Election Day, registered voters should report to one of the various polling places in their precincts. To find the polling place for your specific precinct, you should call your local clerk or electron commission, whose number can be found in the white pages under your town or city's name. If you are attending college in another state, your local clerk or election commission can give you an absentee application or it can be downloaded from the Elections Division at http://www.state.ma.us/see/.

So You Wanna Be a Senior?

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

Rejoice, callow youths of the lower grades. The senior class, exalting in its newfound sense of accomplishment, has decided to extend the hand of friendship and unsolicited advice to the less fortunate. Already having endured the college application process—and, for the most part, survived—the seniors feel themselves uniquely equipped to assist and uplift the rest of the student body. On the principle of appealing to the lowest common denominator, it has selected your correspondent to carry out this task.

The juniors may have noticed a shadow fall over their lives at Boston Latin School in the past year. The Chuck E Cheese-like atmosphere of previous years has slowly fallen away, revealing a deeper, more sinister business than that of mere education. It has begun to hit home that there is life beyond high school, and that they will have to apply for it.

Now, the application process may seem like a cruel, unfair, bureaucratic nightmare unparalleled by anything on this side of the Styx. It is. Your correspondent will make no attempt to disabuse you of this notion, any more than an experienced woodsman would attempt to dissuade you from the healthy idea that grizzly bears are dangerous. However, as with grizzly bears, the undeniable truth is that little can be accomplished by running from the problem. Instead, you must turn around, square your underdeveloped shoulders, and embrace the bear. Your correspondent will reiterate that she is a senior, not an experienced woodsman.

Disregarding amorous advances on grizzly bears, the fact remains that the college application process is not improved or rendered less terrifying by fleeing. The applications will merely wait, drooling, until you have no choice but to face the mauling. Of course, you'll be inundated with well-meaning advice: set realistic goals for yourself, try to be conscious of deadlines so that you won't be forced into a corner, finish all work in a timely and orderly fashion, etc. etc. Don't feel too bad if you realize that, realistically, none of this is going to happen; many Boston Latin School students before you have ignored similar injunctions, and have gone on to lead happy, productive lives as traveling snake-oil salesmen.

If nothing else, take comfort in a companionable misery. No matter how organized and self-possessed everyone else seems to be, most of them are probably at least as confused and frustrated as you. It may be helpful to spend your scant free time imagining these people trying desperately to finish their applications, gnashing their teeth and pulling out their hair as the deadlines creep up.

One oft-overlooked aspect of the admissions process is the FAFSA, the federal financial aid application due after the main applications. Like a cobra waiting behind the grizzly bear, it is both potentially fatal and easy to overlook. This reporter recommends foisting it off on penny-pinching parents. As one senior testifies, "It was February and I was sure I'd never get my FAFSA done. Then it occurred to me that by exploiting my parent's terror of high college bills, I could escape doing any work whatsoever. After a bit of judicious hinting, they took it off my hands, and I was able to get back to being a dedicated BLS student." If you can't con your parents into taking care of business, you may have no choice but to fill it out on your own. Either way, there will probably be a tedious and perhaps awkward conversation with your parents about family finances somewhere along the way. They may even be forced to tell you the connection between that December vacation in Tahiti and the mysterious garden in the back yard.

Most juniors (and some sophomores) are probably already aware of the more conventional methods of college-aid designed to prevent such an eventuality. These include the guidance department and the Schawbel Center, headed by Ms. Sylvester. Aside from the overwhelming inability of the staff and students to come to a consensus on the pronunciation of its name, the Schawbel Center is an excellent resource for the industrious college-bound student, and most diligent BLS upperclassmen will have developed a relationship with their guidance counselor over the course of their time in the school. However, for those who never did get to "industrious" and "diligent" on their SAT vocabulary lists, here are some alternatives gleaned from the wise and worldly class of 2004:

1. The Alarm Method: Have a good friend or trusted family member (hereafter referred to as the "enforcer") sit at a table across from you wearing ear plugs with a pile of cookies and a shriek alarm in front of them. For every five continuous minutes spent doing work, the enforcer should dole out a cookie; for each time your attention wanders, the shriek alarm should be employed.

2. The Isolation Method: Select a friend at the same grade level as you and do them a favor: kidnap them (with parental consent, of course) and lock them in an unfurnished room containing only a pizza, a pencil and the Common Application. The congealed-cheese scent of the pizza, reassuringly reminiscent of lunches in the Dining Hall, will help stave off homesickness and cabin fever. Do not let them out until they slip a completed application under the door, and rest assured that they will do the same for you when you least expect it.

3. The Rhythm Method: Wait till the end of the month they're due, fill out the entire application in one mad rush of adrenaline, and hope for the best. Not the most reliable technique, but backed by long tradition.

Whichever method you choose, Ms. Sylvester reminds you not to "sit back and let things happen to you. You do have time to turn things around," no matter how spectacularly you may have screwed up in the past. Ultimately, when it comes down to a battle of wills between you, an application and a clock, very little of the massive amounts of advice you've ingested will be of any use whatsoever. So take a deep breath and hug that bear.

Graduation at Last!!!

Gradnation plans have been finalized at last! The class of 2004 will graduate at the FleetBoston Pavilion on Sunday, June 6th, at 2:00 p.m. The Senior Class Officers and Class Committee owe a huge thanks to City Councilor John Tobin and Jim Jenson from the FleetBoston Pavilion. After Councilor Tobin met with us to hear our dilemma, he kindly gave our names to several venues around the city, which got us in touch with the FleetBoston Pavillion. Mr. Jenson was very generous and was able to make the Pavilion available as the gradnation site for the class of 2004. For information on how to support the FleetBoston Pavilion sponsors please visit www.fleetbostonpavilion.com. Mark your calendars and alert your relatives, seniors!

-By Rob Winikates, I



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.FLEETBOSTONPAVILION.COM

Save the Date

3/8 Deadline to sign up with Mr. Simmons for the Handel and Haydn Ochestra Performance on 3/25
3/8 Latin tutoring with Ms. LeDang, rm 220
3/8 NLE, R1, dining hall
3/8 Class VI and V Course Selection Meeting, 6-8 pm
3/9 School Parent Council Meeting, rm 119, 7-9 pm
3/9 Math tutoring with Mr. Akeson, rm 220
3/9 NLE, R1, dining hall
3/9 Public Declamation
3/10 College Night for Juniors and parents, 6:30 pm
3/10 Math tutoring with Mr. Akeson, rm 220
3/10 NLE, R1, dining hall
3/10 Prize Reading Preliminary Round, Class I: Room 215; Class II: Room 216; Class III: Room 217; Class IV: Room 218; Class V: Room 227; Classs VI: Room 228
3/11 NLE, R1, dining hall
3/11 Prize Reading Finals, third floor conference room
3/12 Student and Faculty Basketball Game, Upper Gym, 3 pm
3/12 NLE, R1, dining hall
3/13 SAT Prep Class, 9 am-12 pm
3/15 Class IV-II Course Selection Meeting, 6-8 pm
3/16 Meeting for State Street Bank internship in auditorium
3/17 Evacuation Day: No School
3/17 St. Patrick's Day: The real reason we don't have school
3/19 Essays due for Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarships at Mr. Montague's Office
3/19 Guild Play, 3 and 7 pm
3/20 SAT Prep Class, 9 am-12 pm
3/20 Guild Play, 7 pm
3/21 Guild Play, 2 pm
3/22 Meeting for prospective Facing History and Ourselves students, 2:20 in rm 307. Applicants must attend one meeting on 3/22, 3/24, 3/25, 3/26
3/22 Qualifying Test for AP Language and Composition (Class III)
3/23 AIME
3/24 Qualifying Test for AP Literature and Composition (Class II)
3/25 SAT Prep Class, 9 am-12 pm
3/25 Handel and Haydn Orchestra Performance during R4
3/25 Makeup Qualification Test for AP Literature or AP Composition
3/26 ::Chief Wiggum voice:: Krispy Kreme donuts in front of building!!
3/26 Applications due for Dana-Farbar Cancer Institute (Classes I + II)
3/26 Fashion Talent Show
3/27 SAT I Test Date
3/27 Saturday Success School, 9 am-12 pm
3/28 Open House for students entering 7th grade and parents, 1 pm
3/29 School Site Council Meeting
3/30 ELA MCAS for Classes VI and I
4/1 National Mythology Exam, dining hall
4/2 International Showcase in the Auditorium
4/2 Applications due for Ward Fellowship, available in PIC office
4/7 Registration Deadline for the SAT on 5/1
4/7 Faculty Talent Show
4/9 Good Friday: No School
4/9 Red Sox Home Opener
4/16 Applications due for apprenticeship at Harvard School of Public Health (Age 15+)

Want to work on the *Argo*'s News Staff Next Year? Stop by a meeting in the dining hall to pick up an application on March 19th. They will also be available in the main office after the meeting date. Applications will be due by 2:15 on April 5th.

Have an important event or want to let the school know about a club meeting? Submit a notice to the *Argo* by placing it in the *Argo* basket in the main office!

Death Penalty?



BY KATHRYN MCDONALD (I)

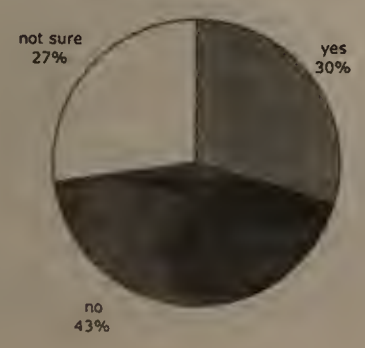
By Mark Tassinari, I
Syndicated Columnist

The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution: "No person shall be...deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." Therefore, if there is due process of law, a person can be killed; there are some people who, through their heinous acts, show that they are more beasts than human, and should be killed for what they have done.

There are now a number of arguments against the death penalty, but they are all pretty weak. People claim that the death penalty is a cruel and unusual form of punishment. Well, killing someone does not seem unusual to me; the death penalty has been around forever. Is the death penalty cruel? Not when you are killing a person who has brutally stabbed people trying to help him, one who has kidnapped, tortured, raped, and then murdered a child, or one who has killed hundreds of people. Then, it does not seem cruel enough. Another argument is that since 113 people on death row have been found innocent since 1973, eventually someone who is innocent will be executed. In recent years, however, there has not been a case where someone who has been executed has been proved innocent. Yes, eventually someone who is innocent could be executed. Yet I believe that if we outlaw the death penalty, there is a greater chance that someone who should have been executed will kill an innocent person. With the overcrowding of our prisons, the possibility of escapes and of murdering again exists. Moreover, even if the prisoner does not escape, he can still kill a fellow inmate or a prison guard. Another argument against the death penalty is that it costs a lot more than life in prison. The reason for this is that death row inmates are given many trials and appeals so that no innocent convicts are killed. Is stopping these inmates from killing again, and any deterring effect that the death penalty could have, worth the cost? Ask the mothers of the killer's victims. Yet another argument is that the death penalty is discriminatory to minorities and to the poor. Those are good arguments for specific cases, but they are no reason to eliminate the death penalty entirely.

Finally, people will argue that we have made progress and are "enlightened", and as an enlightened society we cannot give people the death penalty based on the principle "an eye for an eye". However, when discussing someone like Gary Sampson, who brutally killed three people trying to help him, we must realize that not everyone is enlightened. The bottom line is that the people who commit such horrible deeds need to be executed.

Should first degree murders be punished with the death penalty?



By Erin Durkin, I
Forum Editor

Gary Sampson, the double-murderer who recently became the first person in Massachusetts history to be sentenced to death under federal law, is not a nice man. His conviction for first-degree murder involved two instances of car-jacking in which the victims picked Sampson up while hitchhiking. He proceeded to stab them multiple times. Many good, rational people would agree that for what he has done, Sampson deserves to die. Yet whether he, on a moral level, deserves death, and whether the state should make it its policy to execute him and others like him, are two completely separate questions.

The state simply should not make it its business to execute its citizens, no matter how heinous their crimes. When we allow the state to kill in our names, we are lowering ourselves to the level of the killers. In a country where so many take to heart the command that "Thou shalt not kill," the government should not be carrying out executions. It sends the wrong message, the message that violence is an acceptable way to solve problems. I know that I, personally, could not pull a lever and send another human being to his death. I'm sure that there are many who feel the same way. And if we could not do this killing ourselves, we should not ask our government to do it for us.

It would perhaps be possible to overcome moral objections to the death penalty if it were an effective deterrent to potential murderers. But it simply is not. States like Texas that execute the most people every year continue to have some of the highest murder rates in the nation. A sentence of life in prison without parole is just as effective as the death penalty at protecting society from dangerous individuals and deterring potential criminals.

The U.S. criminal justice system is one of the fairest and most open in the world, but it is not infallible. It is very possible for an innocent man or woman to be convicted of murder. When the offender is sentenced to prison, erroneous convictions can be reversed, and the exonerated prisoner can be freed. The death penalty, on the other hand, is final. Once carried out, it cannot be reversed. There is no margin for error. Since 1973, when the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in the United States (for years previous to this decision, it had been ruled unconstitutional, classified as a form of "cruel and unusual punishment"), 112 death row inmates in 25 states have been exonerated and freed. It is more than likely that, during the same period, some innocent people have been executed. As fallible human beings, we have no business making these life and death decisions. The possibility that an innocent person will be executed is perhaps the most important reason to stop executions now.

There is a reason why the United States is one of the only advanced industrial nations that still clings to the use of the death penalty. The practice puts us at a disadvantage in the international community – European nations have proved reluctant to extradite prisoners, including some accused of serious terrorist offenses, to the United States for fear that they will be subject to the death penalty. It is time that we follow the example of our allies around the world and abolish the death penalty once and for all.

Forum Question

Should first degree murderers be punished with the death penalty?



"No, because two wrongs do not make a right."
—Aaron Gerratt, I



"Yes, because they meant to kill the person."
—Jonathan Lam, II



"If someone kills someone in cold blood they forfeit their right to live."
—Joe Duggan, III



"No, violence should not be answered with violence. They should be given life in prison."
—Joseph Mazzola, IV



"Yes, I think they should because that's exactly what they did to someone else."
—Sandra Tran, V



"No, because they should be locked up. I personally do not like the idea of death for death."
—Silvana Vivas, VI

PHOTOS BY KATHRYN MCDONALD, I

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Frankline Ho, II
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Editor's Note

Erin Durkin, Forum Editor

For months now, parents, teachers and politicians have been yelling and screaming about the issue of nonresidents at Boston Latin School. Seats rightfully belonging to Boston residents have been co-opted by "sneaky out-of-towners"; people are outraged, and they have the right to be outraged. Yet, without minimizing the importance of the residency issue and without denying the righteousness of the anger it has produced, it is still possible to look with a critical eye at the sources of that anger.

It seems like the outrage concerning residency has been coming from all the wrong places. What everyone realizes but almost no one will say out loud is that almost all the people who have mobilized on this issue are parents from upper-middle class families residing in West Roxbury and thereabouts. Their chief complaint is that if their kids are cheated out of a seat at Boston Latin, they will have to pay $20,000 a year in private school tuition. Sure, that's tough. But the real victims of the fraud committed by nonresidents, the people who suffer the most, are the public school kids whose parents don't even dream of paying $20,000 a year, for whom BLS is the only chance at a decent education.

Let me repeat: parents are absolutely right to be angry that nonresidents are stealing seats at Boston Latin. Yet some of the rhetoric that has been used to support this argument is divisive and disturbing. Some (not all) of these parents seem to think that Boston Latin School exists for them and their kids and no one else, an attitude not based entirely on geography. Rhetoric inveighing against "those people" gives the impression that residency is not the only issue in play here.

Half of you reading this are probably thinking, "I have no idea what she's talking about," and the other half probably assume that I'm speaking euphemistically and trying to imply that residency has become a race issue. To a certain extent, I suppose this is true. There is no avoiding the fact that every one of the six or seven students kicked out for living outside the city has been Asian. Yet I hesitate to frame the problem in those terms, because as soon as the heated topic of race is introduced, people's blinders go on, their defenses go up, rational thinking ceases, and no one bothers to explore the more intricate nuances of the issue. Race is far from the only, and not even the most significant, dynamic at play here. It is a broader exclusivity that is bothering me here, a particularly provincial attitude that isn't exclusive to Boston but is certainly omnipresent here, a tendency to rush to judgment, to condemn anything new or different. It seems that residency has been the catalyst for channeling a certain amount of anger and tension that has simmered under the surface for a long time, and that some of this anger might not be altogether wholesome.

I can already anticipate the angry responses I'll get to this article. I'll be accused of making allegations with no evidence, of defending residency scofflaws who fraudulently take up seats at Boston Latin. To answer the second charge first, let me repeat that I am not advocating leniency towards nonresident students. I feel that those who are caught should generally be expelled for a deterrent effect, though I am disturbed by the vindictive joy that some seem to get in seeing kids booted. And let me fully admit that I am speaking with no evidence to back me up, operating on hunches and gut feelings. It is difficult to explain something so intangible, and I am fully aware that I have made a poor effort at doing so. I know only that I have observed a tone that is deeply divisive, have felt an atmosphere created that is quite disturbing.

Ralph Don't Run

"He has ... defined our modern understanding of the American ideals of democracy, civic duty, and participation for the public good, rather than dominance by the corporate powers." Fighting for the rights of not the upper or lower classes, not the conservatives or the liberals, but everyone. Sounds like the perfect liberal candidate, doesn't he? This quote can be found on the web page of Ralph Nader, an icon in progressive circles for years. But it is apparent that most of Nader's would-be supporters, many of whom voted for him when he ran in 2000, want his current campaign for president to be stopped. Why? Because he is widely credited with taking up vital votes during the 2000 elections that could have allowed Al Gore to overcome George W. Bush, and, by connection, with being the cause of the many conservative policies that have been implemented since Bush's election. In the disputed election in Florida, Bush beat out Gore by mere hundreds of votes, winning by a small fraction of one percent. Bush's margin of victory was far smaller than the number of votes cast for Nader. So if all—or even most—of Nader's supporters in Florida had instead cast votes for Gore, Bush would not be president today. Next November's presidential elections show every sign of being just as close. And yet, inexplicably, Ralph Nader has announced that he will once again be running.

"The lesser of two evils" is a phrase we hear frequently when it comes to politics. Now more than ever it has become clear to most liberals that the Democrats have to place one of their candidates in the Oval Office; there is just too much at stake. From the infamous war on Iraq to the relaxed environmental policies, the Bush Administration has threatened almost everything for which the Democrats and other liberals stand. There is already a Republican majority in the House and the Senate. Over the next four years, it is likely that one of the Supreme Court justices will retire. Should Bush be re-elected, it will be possible for him to appoint another judge who will agree with his views, thus perpetuating his conservative legacy for decades to come. Nader obviously does not think this is enough of a cause for him to throw his support over to the Democratic candidate.

There is the argument that Nader's campaigns, both prior and present, have caused the Democrats to rethink their causes, preventing them from becoming



COURTESY OF GUERILLANEWS.COM

"Republican-lite." Current pro-Nader activists say that he brings ethics back into the political arena. This is all very admirable, but frankly, now is not the time. There is just too much hanging on this election, and even many of Nader's close friends have attacked his decision. Moreover, he has forsaken his former Green Party rather than wait until they nominate a candidate in June. It simply looks like Nader has jeopardized his own ideals in his determination to advance his personal agenda.

A Capitol Mistake

Since the beginning of the Iraq war, inconsistencies in intelligence and a failure to produce concrete evidence concerning Saddam Hussein's suspected weapons of mass destruction have undermined the credibility of President Bush. After all, the President was the first to describe Iraq as part of a worldwide "Axis of Evil" in his State of the Union Address in January of 2002 – an accusation based on the Iraqi government's suspected link to al-Qaeda and the weapons of mass destruction kept "locked away" by Saddam Hussein. Yet, as these suspicions have since been proven false, Bush has been left in a position of liability and blame. At the time the war was declared, polls indicated a majority in favor of a war against Iraq. However, the tide changed when neither the WMDs nor a link to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network surfaced. David Kay, the United Nations' former chief WMD hunter, could only mutter "we were all wrong" in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee last January. Should our President be held responsible? Yes. He distorted intelligence reports, exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam, and made the final decision to engage in war with Iraq. We should also remember, however, that Congress voted to authorize this war, voted to trust Bush unconditionally and gave him full power to make these choices. Should not our own representative body have performed a more active role in making the decision, rather than blindly following the president? Obviously, members of Congress fell short of their responsibilities.

To understand the "blame game" that is being played back and forth between President Bush and Congress, it is important to first define the role that Congress should play in the decision-making process of the United States government. Although the president is the Commander-in-Chief of our nation's military, Congress has the constitutional responsibility for declaring war. They are a body of people who have their own minds– they should not subscribe to a herd mentality and sit back and let the president carry out the decision-making. The choice of the American people—not supported by every last person, but indicated in numerous opinion polls—was to launch a war. Perhaps it was a feeling of vulnerability that led to this choice. Perhaps the Bush administration had an ulterior motive in deciding to declare war, using the nation's own fear to gloss over a desire to control the Middle East oil affairs. If the latter were the case, Congress should have recognized these motives. As a result of their failure to take a stand, we have a president who believed that two tractor-trailers in northern Iraq last May were indications of WMDs, and a government that is in disarray, blaming each other for digesting faulty intelligence reports and refusing to heed the overall consensus of foreign nations. Congress obviously wanted no part in making a wrong decision. On many levels, the war in Iraq has been a mess – there have been needless deaths, money has been squandered, and the economy is still in the doldrums. Yet, ironically enough, the very people in Congress who voted in favor of allowing Bush to attack – including the lime-lit John Kerry – are now the ones most fervent in their attacks against him. Belatedly, Kerry asserts that he voted to give Bush full power in declaring war, not because he agreed with Bush's "rush-headlong-into-Iraq" strategy; rather, he maintains that at the time of the vote, Bush had also been petitioning the UN Security Council to issue an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein. To Kerry and other members of Congress, it seemed like a logical decision to submit a pro-war vote in order to give the president leverage and help him obtain a diplomatic means of ending the crisis. However, in doing so, Congress let its decisions be swayed by an outside matter – rather than the issue at heart – and their own foresight suffered as a result.

Rather than concentrating on the mistakes made in the past – Bush's misleading intelligence reports, his administration's refusal to heed other countries' advice, and the suspected manipulation of the nation's fear to justify a war – Congress should be contemplating their next step in handling the situation, not scrutinizing over details and dwelling on debates that ought to have occurred months ago. In addition to investigating the president, Congress should begin looking inward when assigning blame. When they voted to transfer their most important power – the authority over decisions of war –in October 2002, they gave up their ability to stop a massive waste of resources, money, and most importantly, the lives of US troops.

After all, there seems to be something inherently wrong when a representative body is no longer playing a proactive role.



COURTESY OF SVEN ELDOK

Sharon Silverman

No Apologies, No Guilt

Isn't it curious that one of the loudest critics of Israel's security barrier is now, too, building a wall? I am sure that most of you, on account of the biased media, have not heard about the wall Saudi Arabia is erecting along the southern border it shares with Yemen. Saudi officials are fed up with Yemen's inability to arrest infiltrators before they set foot onto Saudi land, and have decided that their best option is to construct a security fence. What an interesting event. In an op-ed in Issue IV of the *Argo*, Sara Awad (I) criticizes Israel's defensive measures, repudiates the Israelis' right to their own land, and accuses the media of being partial to the Israelis' plight. It is an un-funny joke that Awad should criticize the media when it is obvious that they have *always* been biased in favor of the Palestinian version of events.

Awad writes that Israeli soldiers are at fault for refusing to let pregnant Palestinian women through checkpoints. She fails to mention that these women have been caught concealing weapons and bomb belts under their clothing and in baby carriages. Does she expect the Israeli government to sacrifice additional lives of its citizens just so the Palestinians will not be inconvenienced when they travel? As for the Palestinian children, why do parents send them out to fight in their stead? When Palestinians *condone* the harboring of terrorists in their midst, they must accept the consequences: the rest of their people will be as much at risk as the terrorists. Have you ever seen an Arab peace march? Obviously the Palestinians do not desire peace, except by having a *Judenrein* Middle East. Unfortunately for them, Jews have lived in the land of Israel for over 3300 years—since 1800 years before the birth of Islam—and will continue to thrive in the land that GOD gave them (Deuteronomy 11:24-31). For those who do not believe in GOD, there are certainly more valid reasons that show Israel does, indeed, belong to the Jews.

Jews have been living in the land of Israel since 1272 B.C.E. They have thrived there for more than 13 centuries, until the Romans destroyed their Second Temple and exiled them in 70 C.E. When the Romans overran the Jewish homeland, they changed its name from "Judea" to "Palestina", a bastardization of the word "Philistine." (The Philistines were an Aegean people sworn to the annihilation of the Jews). By renaming it, the Romans meant to further abase the Jews. Although many Jews were exiled during this period, others remained on their land. This is shown by Jewish artifacts and texts found there which date back to the period after their proposed exile. By the year 800 C.E., the Jewish population had once again grown immensely. During the crusades in 1100 C.E., many Jews were massacred, but the rest continued to flourish up through the present. So, as history shows, the Jews have had an uninterrupted presence in the land of Israel, having lived there for *more than 3 millennia before 1948*! On the other hand, as a high-ranking Palestinian official put it, "We consider Palestine a part of Arab Syria, as it has never been separated from it at any time. We are connected with it [Syria] by national, religious, linguistic, natural, economic and geographical bonds." So shouldn't Syria absorb the Palestinians?



PALESTINIANS THROWING "ROCKS" COURTESY OF HONESTREPORTING.COM

In 1917, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, supporting the establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. This homeland was to include what is now Jordan. In 1922, the League of Nations entrusted Great Britain with a mandate for Palestine. With this mandate, Britain took two-thirds of the Jewish national homeland and created a client state called Jordan. Then, in 1947, the United Nations created a partition plan that would have carved both an Arab and a Jewish state out of the remaining third of the original Jewish National Homeland. This compromise was rejected by the Palestinians. In 1949, one year after the founding of the state of Israel, Jordan decided to annex Judea and Samaria (West Bank) from Israel and held it for 18 years until 1967, when Syria, Egypt and Jordan waged war against Israel. After these Arab countries lost their offensive war, the Jews regained Judea and Samaria, which had been taken from them. An operative UN resolution (242) was also created. It called for peace on the condition that Israel had secure and recognized borders inclusive of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Only then, when Israel regained the West Bank, did a movement for a Palestinian homeland begin. Not surprisingly, during the period from 1949 to 1967, when Jordan occupied the West Bank, no complaints were heard from Palestinians.

Let Jordan be their Palestine, since it is already 70 percent Palestinian Arab. However, the Palestinians must remain the pawns of their Arab brethren, who do not care about the fate of these Arab refugees. If they did care, they could easily absorb them into their own countries, which comprise *more than 99 percent* of the Middle East. The Palestinians should be thankful that the Israelis do not opt for the defensive tactics of the Syrians, Jordanians and Lebanese, who killed masses of Palestinians fomenting their usual, predictable trouble for these countries. It was Syria that crushed the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood in Hama Syria in 1982; it was Kuwait that expelled 300,000 Palestinians in 1990. Even their fellow Arabs were not going to take any more Palestinian rioting, chaos and killing in their countries. But, instead of violence and expulsion, the Israelis make concessions and build a wall to defend their country, as the Chinese did to protect themselves from Mongolian aggression.

Ariel Sharon has done everything in his power to end the perpetual violence. In regard to Sabra and Shatila, Awad must review her history: it was a Lebanese Christian militia—not Ariel Sharon—who entered the camps to inflict a severe punishment on the Palestinians who had just assassinated their president and were causing their usual trouble. Awad must also review her math, for there were 700 to 800, not 3000, killed. Not surprisingly, Awad is also wrong when she describes September 28, 2000. On this date, Palestinians were rioting at the western wall, throwing rocks at praying Israelis and at policemen, who fired back in self-defense. Sharon never entered the mosque, nor were there 2000 soldiers with him.

One may dismiss the idea of rocks being termed "weapons", but they do *maim and kill*. A cop is justified to shoot someone who throws a rock at him. Who wants a brick thrown at his or her head? If, as Awad writes, the Palestinians have "nothing but rocks and their will to survive," what have they been using to blow up Israeli tanks, civilian buses, pizza parlors and cafes? *Are rocks used when Israelis die from sniper fire?* The Palestinians are also conveniently armed with automatic weapons, mortars, Kassem rockets, machine guns and explosives. And yes, Awad, it is *strange* that they blow themselves up. How many other ethnic groups blow themselves, as well as the innocent civilians around them, to bits? Other ethnic groups with religious disputes do not use this strange and ugly tactic. It is indeed *very strange* that Palestinians morph their bodies into bombs for money ($25,000) and sex (72 celestial virgins).

No, it is not a crime to fight for one's freedom. It is, however, a crime to target innocents, and to take that which is *not rightfully theirs*. The open-minded reader who wants to know the facts instead of the propaganda may want to visit www.us-israel.org or www.israelactivism.com.

Sharon Silverman is a member of Class I

Oscar Baez

B-sies: A Love-Hate Relationship

The moment I stepped into Boston Latin School in ninth grade, I was labeled. Don't worry—this is not yet another article on racial discrimination or self-segregation. When I enrolled, the controversial "quota" had been abolished and there were no signs that my race had put me at a disadvantage. The label that I was given had more to do with the hierarchy of the school, which added more tension to the environment of growing civil distress between students, faculty and administration. I would be exaggerating if I said that it pitted "student against student," but it most certainly forced students to define themselves and to see each other differently.

My label was innocent enough: B-sie. Initially I thought it was logistically necessary—I entered two years after most of my classmates did, and for the sake of grouping students into certain classes, separations were necessary. It may have been well-intentioned, but the school's attempt to ease the transition often added to a growing sense of division among the student body. For those who take the course Facing History and Ourselves, you may know the ensuing result as "othering"—the practice of classifying people into groups, and turning them into an "other", each with a common characteristic that makes them different. Am I saying that B-sies were picked on, hassled, or given the cold shoulder by those classmates who came as sixies? Not at all. As the years pass, and definitely by senior year, the line between the two groups is blurred; one tends to forget who is and isn't a B-sie. However, there is no doubt that each student still has his or her own loyalty.

If asked, I would never deny being a B-sie. In fact, I have not once regretted spending my 7th and 8th grades away from Boston Latin. I'm not alone, either; Caitlin McGovern (I) shares the sentiment of most B-sies: "I prefer being a B-sie because you still receive a great education, but get to enjoy your middle school years without the overwhelming amount of pressure and workload." Still, the added work of sixie and fivesie years gives A-sies (i.e. "normal people") the upper hand academically. It is no secret—B-sies are constantly playing a game of catch-up. They are behind two years in Latin, and one year for math and world languages. This leads to "B-sie"-math and Latin classes, or being grouped with underclassmen. Couple this with the B-sie-only homerooms in ninth grade, and there is no doubt why most B-sies tend to bond with other B-sies—they are always around each other. I have heard claims that B-sies "keep to themselves" or are generally unknown by the A-sie population. No, we are not shy, and to my knowledge very few of us bite. However, when we join a class of 400 peers, the lack of familiar faces is intimidating, and that feeling of isolation grows when you look around and see that social circles have already formed long before you arrived. It is much harder to reach out when most of those around you already feel that they belong. Most of the Latin School students make friends by eighth grade, one thing that many A-sies say counterbalances having such an overwhelming environment (even during pre-teen years). Sam Akiba (II) says, "by ninth grade you know everyone and you know the system, so you are more prepared." This trend is seen in the leadership among clubs. Experience is given priority, and it is more difficult for a B-sie to move up the ranks if there are fellow classmates who were members since sixie year. Similarly, as in the class of 2004 (which doesn't have any B-sies as officers), B-sies have a tougher time winning elections, which are (not to belittle student government) essentially popularity contests.

It may seem that I am making a mountain out of a molehill. I am not saying that it is impossible for a B-sie to succeed at Boston Latin School or to become friends with A-sies; there are countless examples to the contrary—it is just harder. Fewer honors classes are available. We are outnumbered. We had no connections classes to get to know each other, and we seem to be constantly one step behind in the game. The adjustment period when students get used to the "business of education" at Boston Latin occurs to B-sies when it actually counts academically. I am guilty of trying to erase any trace of my "B-sie-ness" in this respect. It isn't that I am ashamed of this title, but life at Boston Latin is simply easier for A-sies.

The B-sie is somewhat of a paradox. There is no point in trying to group any of us. No matter what path you take to get through BLS, whether it takes four or six years, you will lose some hair and sleep.

Originally, this op-ed was supposed to address the underground "discrimination" against B-sies, but, having realized that there really isn't any, it somehow degenerated into a whiny rant from a GPA-whore-at-heart. This was purely the product of coaxing by an OCD Forum Editor of Doom trying to distract me from my own section. Figures—she's an A-sie.

Oscar Baez is a member of Class I.

Secret Lives of Sixies Revealed

By Queen Arsem-O'Malley, VI
Staff Writer

Sixie – noun or adjective. Often accompanied by the suffix "ish," as in "you're so sixieish," or "that was such a sixieish statement." Technically, it means "seventh-grader," generally known for being short, having large backpacks, looking confused, having no time management, and getting lost a lot (at least for the first half of the year). Often spotted in Boston Latin School hallways, especially on the second floor.

Coming from the Mary E. Curley Middle School in Jamaica Plain, a school of about 600, BLS was a big change. There were more than three times the number of people. I was forced to learn quickly how to get to my locker often, find my way to the gym, and not be late to Mr. Haritos' class. Some people have told me I'm not like a regular sixie, but yes, I still have those sixieish instincts, like packing my bag 5 minutes before the bell rings, and watching the clock for the last 30 seconds of class, silently counting down for the last 10 (especially in Latin).

So far in my time at Boston Latin, I've benefited more than I've suffered from my title of Sixie. Like people saying, "Oh, you're a sixie? Omigod! An actual *sixie*! We upperclassmen can't remember sixie year...," and (for the first few weeks of school, at least) "WHY ARE YOU LATE?? Oh, you're a sixie—never mind!" And I've only been called a "damn sixie" once... or twice...OK, OK, three times, but still, life is good.

Sixies are known for having fat – *fine*, I'll be politically correct – large backpacks. For God's sake, there's even a type of bag called a "sixie bag," because we don't know how to manage time and avoid lugging all our books around all day. And because we buy large bags, like those huge L.L. Bean bags that half of the sixies this year have. We glare in envy at the upperclassmen (a mysterious people, even to those who know a few of them) with those paper-thin "Jansport" bags that look like they weigh two ounces. No sixie knows how to get to his or her locker often enough, though some learn faster than others. (I've seen sixies carry in their arms or stuff in their bags loads so large they *must* constitute entire contents of their now-empty lockers.)

And, of course, how can we leave a description of sixies without mentioning the Sixie Social? We can't. For those of you who haven't seen the bright pineapple-adorned posters in the second floor halls, the Sixie Social is a dance. For sixies. The theme is a luau in the middle of winter. A luau in February on a Friday night at school in the cafeteria (excuse me, *dining hall*) with teacher and upperclassmen chaperones. A dance organized by *parents and teachers*. As my friend would say, "Whoa. That's a little scary." Plus, it's five dollars to get in. Wow. I'm feelin' warm and happy already.

It happened on Friday, February 27 (the posters are still in the halls); according to some attendees, there were actually a lot of people there. (How many do you think were forced? Now you know what happens when your parents know about school events like dances.) I personally was scared off by reasons listed above and the fact that they had the game Twister last year. A few older friends have upbraided me that I missed the "only dance for you little... 7th-graders," and a couple of friends tell me "it was fun; all people did was dance." (Oh yeah, that sounds *really* fun.)

So, how exactly do sixies interact socially? My editor keeps bugging me to explain this to her (er, I mean, to all of you faithful readers). It's pretty much the same as any other grade. There are cliques—the girls madly obsessed with boys, the boys madly obsessed with girls, the crazy people, the smart people, and the general, all-around normal people. There are the groups of people who go to the Galleria everyday after school, the kids who hang out in the library doing "homework," and the kids who take the 35 home, who must spend most of the day planning the fastest route from R7 to the bus. Outside school, instant messaging is basically our only form of communication, unless you have a huge group project due the next day that you haven't started. The rule seems to be that if you manage to weasel your crush's screenname out of a friend of theirs, and make up a good enough excuse to talk to him, you must print out the conversation and pass it around to friends to ooh and aah over while tuning out Latin class or a lecture about cheating (we've gotten a lot of those this year). Weekends are pretty much the same thing, only with more phone calls, more sleeping, and more homework. A social-interaction-obsession is the monthly Holy Name dance, one Friday a month. It's the only thing everyone talks about all week before one: Do you have tickets yet? What are you going to wear? Who is going to be there? (Fortunately, I have saved my soul and never attended one.)

Now, it's March (only March? You have *got* to be kidding), and I've become sort of used to my schedule. Wake up, hit snooze, wake up again, groan, mumble and otherwise complain, take 15 minutes figuring out how to get my watch on, force my eyes open, see the time, rush my way through the rest of getting ready, run to the bus stop, stumble into school, realize I forgot something (usually something important), and proceed to sleep through R1 (unless it's a study that I've left all my homework for). The way I get through it? I just keep telling myself, only four months 'til summer vacation.



BY ARIANE WILLIAMS, I

Does Size Matter?

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

Maybe the public really does value an arm ornament more than accomplishment and intelligence. Maybe the most important aspect of a First Lady should indeed be physical beauty. Maybe it is more important for the public to know the First Lady's dress size before they know her ideas about reforming welfare or her take on American foreign policy. This is certainly what the media suggests to the public in its approach to covering the First Lady.

Dr. Judy Dean has a thriving medical practice in Vermont. She also has a son who is a senior at Burlington High School. The media was adamant about criticizing Dean for maintaining her practice while her husband was campaigning. True, Dr. Dean did not go everywhere with her husband, kissing babies and shaking hands. She was not at every press conference or available for countless of interviews with the media. She was in Vermont, where she had prior obligations to her son and her patients. Howard Dean's wife having obligations and fulfilling commitments has nothing to do with his ability to govern—or lack thereof. It has nothing to do with a lack of support or confidence on Judy Dean's part. What it demonstrates is that Judy Dean is a committed woman who can not only support her husband but can also have her own life and her own career. The media was out of line in their criticism of Dr. Dean. Howard Dean is long gone from the race. The media single-handedly created and destroyed the Dean phenomena. Yet Judy Dean is not the only First Lady, or rather, prospective First Lady, to come into such criticism.

Indeed, it is important that the First Lady be able to be an ambassador; she must be able to deal with not only the American public but also foreign dignitaries. It is one of her duties to be present at many media events and various diplomatic dinners that are hosted at the White House. She must be proactive and vocal in extending goodwill. Ellen Wilson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary Rodham Clinton are prime examples of First Ladies said by political scientists to have been the driving force behind some of their respective husbands' most influential policies. Their ability to reach out to the American public and shape policy greatly benefited the United States. They certainly deserved to be taken seriously. Yet at the same time, the media has an obsession with the way First Ladies look and their dress sizes. Yes, Jackie Kennedy was glamorous, and Eleanor Roosevelt may have been built more like a linebacker than a ballerina, but that has absolutely nothing to do with either politics or policy. With every new First Lady, the media finds out her dress size and various other physical attributes. The First Lady is then criticized or praised due to her looks, and her value as an arm ornament carries more weight than her intelligence or her accomplishments.

This is an inherent flaw with the media and shows blatant sexism. When was the last time the media broadcasted George W. Bush's pant size? And yet, while his mother was First Lady, it was widely publicized that she was the only First Lady in many years to be above a size 8. At the risk of sounding overly feminist, the media has no business critiquing women whose job or role in the government has nothing to do with their looks, their dress sizes, or the fact that they maintained their medical practice while their husbands campaigned for president.

There is an obvious double standard in the media's coverage of women in politics. This double standard and sexism may be one of the reasons the United States has seen neither a female president nor a strong female presidential candidate. If the media does ever want to have a female president, this double standard must first come to an end so that women in politics are not viewed as arm ornaments but as capable, intelligent people who help shape policy and affect the American public.

Get Over It!

By Isaac Meister, II
Assistant Editor

People always prefer subtle decay to flashy example—at least as far as morals are concerned. At this point it is largely redundant to rehash the incredible uproar that has followed in the wake of the notorious Janet Jackson nipple debacle. Suffice it to say that during a performance at the Super Bowl halftime show, Justin Timberlake caused—whether by "wardrobe malfunction," as MTV's frazzled publicists have insisted, or by ill-conceived design—the exposure of a nebulous silicone mass, replete with nipple and its thoroughly bizarre attached ring. On the whole, most people agree that the act was in poor taste and was placed before an inappropriately large audience. But how much further should public hysteria demand media coverage and pat responses from moralists, politicians and civil libertarians?

It is interesting to note that Jackson's nipple was actually broadcast for a much longer time on the nightly news than it was before judicious CBS censors cut the live video feed. In fact, if the media had chosen to tastefully ignore the behavior of Jackson, this article would not have been written. Far be it from me to condemn moralists for attempting to apply constraints to explicit material, but the sensationalism of their own outcry has helped to create a perceived environment of rampant censorship.

Aside from sparking endless prime-time news debates among the vacuous talking heads of major television networks, America's obsession with the terrifying nipple has spawned a series of bizarre responses from the media and the government. Well-known *radio* talk show host Howard Stern—a man who, while possibly guilty of encouraging female breast exposure, has remained harmlessly uncouth about the situation—has been called before the United States Congress to testify regarding the use of profanity and sexual themes in the media. Michael Powell, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, has repeatedly criticized Viacom and MTV over the incident, threatening to increase fines and license penalties for obscene acts. There has also been talk of legislation extending FCC jurisdiction to cable and other media.

It has been exactly that—*talk*—that has been the major by-product of this entire event. There has been talk from moralists, who simper, whimpering variations on this theme: "Who will think of the children? Why won't somebody think of the children? Oh, God, no one thinks of the children!" There has been talk from violently anti-censorship civil libertarians decrying the fascist/dictatiorial efforts of the Man to stifle freedom of expression and attempting to make middle-aged pop star mammaries standard fare at public events. There has even been talk from overzealous feminists and militant civil rights activists, deploring the manner in which Justin Timberlake has been ignored as the actual costume *ripper* and underscoring the situation as yet another example of the sexist/misogynist underpinnings of AmeriKKKan society. But aside from a tornado of pithy "insights" and publicity briefs, what more has been accomplished?

No new regulations have yet been approved granting the FCC greater power to censor live content. No fines or penalties have actually been paid by CBS or MTV as a result of the nipple-flashing horror. Why, therefore, should the American public be force-fed an endless debate over the ethics and semantics of the situation?

It is generally agreed among advertisers that sex sells. Janet Jackson's nipple—as repugnant as it may be—is yet another form of said sex. The airwaves are packed with sex in all forms, whether subtle (think NBC reality TV) or more overt (think anything FOX). Why shake a time-honored American tradition? Like the much-debated Britney/Madonna kiss of yesteryear, the Janet Jackson nipple is fated to go down in history as yet another feather in the cap of sensationalism. The nipple was there, the nipple was strange, but now the nipple is gone. Get over it, people.

Mel Gibson's Personal Jesus

By Zak Trayes-Gibson, I
Assistant A&E Editor

Mel Gibson's new film "The Passion of the Christ," for all its papal endorsements, accusations of bigotry, and media fervor, turns out to be nothing more than what it was intended to be: an assertion of one man's beliefs, and a bloody one at that.

The film comes on the heels of the greatest amount of controversy over a movie about the life of Jesus since Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ." Unlike Scorsese's speculative movie, however, Gibson's creation provides minimal food for thought and leaves precious little to the imagination. Gibson is a traditionalist Catholic, and thus he has made what he sees as the definitive version of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life in accordance with his faith.

For the viewer, this translates to a particularly gory and unforgiving focus on the suffering endured by Jesus up until his death by crucifixion. Indeed, the title of "Passion" is used with the intent of suffering, derived from the Latin meaning of the word. Gibson seems to measure his devotion by the sanctity of Jesus' blood and accordingly paints the walls with it. The movie is excruciatingly violent from the time of Jesus' capture to the crucifixion. The camera seems to luxuriate in it, most noticeably in its depiction of Jesus' scourging at the hands of the Romans. It is unclear whether Gibson intends to nauseate the audience into a state of compassion or merely wants to emphasize Jesus' connection to man through pain, though, given Gibson's beliefs, the latter is more likely.

Gibson's previous directorial work, though limited, provides corroborating evidence. "Braveheart" is frequently and imaginatively gory, although it is tempered with long stretches of character development and speeches about freedom. This is not the case in the "Passion", which becomes a marathon in brutality soon after the opening scenes in the garden of Gesthemane.



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The movie opens after the Last Supper in the Garden of Gesthemane, where Jesus (Jim Caviezel) learns of what is to become of him and, following Jesus' betrayal, is promptly arrested by the Sanhedrin soldiers. Satan shows up early on as a pasty androgyne (actually Rosalinda Celentano, a woman) who tries to sow seeds of doubt, but only manages to hiss emphatically in Aramaic. These first few scenes are among the best in the film, although Gibson's usage of slow motion is highly questionable. His directorial touch is about as light as Michael Bay's, and he hammers home points with cheap filmmaking techniques: slow motion for Judas' kiss, digital effects at the moment of Jesus' death, etc. The dialogue is entirely in Aramaic and "street" Latin and, although subtitled, comes off as stilted. Perhaps this is due to the flat translation, the fact that Gibson had not intended to subtitle the film when he wrote it, or the humorless nature of the subject. Whatever the reason, it detracts from the dramatic heft of the story.

Gibson does do a good job, however, in creating the historical subtext that leads to Jesus' execution, from the desperate grasping of Caiaphas (Mattia Sbragia) to the domestic problems of Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov). That is not to say that his characterizations are not questionable. Pilate is portrayed rather forgivingly, while Herod is inexplicably a drunken queen. Mary, John, and Mary Magdalene have little to do as Jesus' followers but cry and look concerned, but the three actors (Maia Morgenstern, Hristo Jikvov, and Monica Bellucci, respectively) make the most of their meager parts in intermittent flashbacks.

As for Jesus, Jim Caviezel acquits himself well in the role, perhaps only because of its limitations. He acts very little and is required to say even less. He spends the majority of the time being verbally abused and beaten to a pulp, which actually serves to benefit his limited acting range. Never underestimate the power of looking like Jesus. When the script actually requires him to act, his believability depends entirely on how seriously one takes the film: the Sermon on the Mount is shot in such a way that Jesus looks like a motivational speaker. Also of note is a flashback in which Jesus is still a carpenter, as the camaraderie and love depicted between him and Mary is merely goofy. The scene is reminiscent of other Mel Gibson films in which character development is accomplished through slight humor that endears the audience to the otherwise impenetrable personality of the character. Indeed, the carpentry scene would work well as comedy, were it not Jesus.

Ultimately, the film is a mixed bag, providing the viewer with exactly what is expected. The direction is competent (bolstered by great cinematography of Caleb Deschanel), if a bit stylistically ham-handed, and the acting is serviceable. The purported anti-Semitism can be found quite easily, although its inclusion seems purely coincidental with Gibson's beliefs. It is most assuredly not a movie for kids of any age, even as a bizarre teaching tool for religion; parents ought not subject children to such images under any circumstances. Though it isn't the bloodiest or most violent film ever made, the unflinching brutality is distinctly different from the cartoonish and stylized violence of movies like "The Matrix" or "Kill Bill" and often hurts to watch. One's enjoyment or rather, appreciation, of the film stems directly from the viewer's system of beliefs and an attempted understanding of the director's intent.

The Devil and Martha Stewart

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

In a time when mercurial Democratic primaries, amendments about gay and lesbian marriage, and Dick Cheney's deep involvement with a company of questionable legal practices would seem to reign supreme in the nation's headlines, it is indeed most extraordinary that none of these matters seems too pressing to the higher echelons of the journalistic community. Of course, the question that does arise next is: so what are the top reporters looking at? What could possibly be more important than the recent rebellions against the established government in Haiti and the ever-spreading AIDS epidemic?

Martha Stewart.

Yes, my friends, the literary pundits, instead of actually reporting on news that might be useful and crucial to the American population, choose to dedicate precious column space to analyzing the trial of a middle-aged woman whose claim to fame is her astounding ability to crochet and color-coordinate bathroom towels. By no means am I implying that what she has been accused of is minor; embezzlement and insider trading (not to mention probable vehicular manslaughter) are crimes that deserve substantial punishment and reprimand. But where is the exposé on the recent revelation that Dick Cheney was in fact the CEO of Halliburton, a company that continues to do business with such countries as Iraq and has recently undergone severe scrutiny? Why doesn't someone investigate him, ask questions about his current involvement with the company and figure out if maybe the second-in-command of the country has a hidden agenda harmful to the well-being of the U.S? After hearing about the trial and Stewart's doings for the umpteenth time, I find my attention wandering to other areas, suddenly contemplating, "I wonder if that whole attack on the U.S. with nuclear weaponry ever worked out?"

Let's face it: time and time again, the entertainment industry takes center stage in all of the mediums on which we are dependent to stay informed about the world around us. It never fails to amaze me how even the smallest ripple in the world of movie stars and singers can overwhelm and dwarf truly significant pieces of news, be they political updates or the rise of global crises. A few years ago, it was common knowledge that Julia Roberts hadn't shaved under her arms for one award show, complete with close-ups of the hirsute section of her body as well as in-depth interviews discussing the effect of such a slip-up. While this was going on, only one-third of the American population was aware that a genocide in Rwanda had been going on for the past few years, a genocide largely ignored --and thus aided--by the former President Bill Clinton.



COURTESY OF WWW.GOOGLE.COM

Americans are notorious for being ill-informed about world events, going back to the days of World War I, when such ignorance on the part of the population left it at the mercy of leaders both at home and abroad. Now, in this enlightened age, we seem to have made little progress, in effect, allowing those in authority to use this power in whichever way they choose; after all, if the majority of the population remains unaware of the downward spiral of the economy, why bother telling them?

But why is it that celebrities gain so much more attention than events, which most people know are more important? The world of arts and entertainment has long been a place for people to relax and let go of the hardships of reality. This has proven necessary in any modern country. As of late, however, this desire to forget has increased dramatically, as millions turn away from books and move towards the television set. This disturbing trend has especially grown in the younger generation, though sometimes, one can't blame them. After all, who wouldn't be more interested in the glamorous lives of the rich and famous as well as their extravagant scandals? Sure, we know that they're shallow; we understand that by watching them, we're not contributing anything positive to the environment around us and we're probably just helping them get even more of a profit. Be that as it may, the idea of trying to stay on top of the reality of present situations seems too depressing to many Americans and too much work for the rest. It is also true that catching up on current events seems pointless to many Americans. Why should one get interested in a society where nothing really changes and no one wants to get involved anyway? Sucked into the romanticism upheld by advertisements and movies, we want immediate perfection and are not in the least bit interested when it comes to the harsh realities of today.

The fact remains, however, that this national obsession with the entertainment industry has proven only harmful to the population. Without knowledge of what's going on in the world around us, we become pawns of the people in higher positions, becoming dependant on their reports to us without having any previous knowledge to come to some type of understanding. We become as shallow as the people we love to watch, fulfilling the old cliché, "what happens when life imitates art?" We become an ignorant people, lost in a sea of trivialities, while current events race around us. This apathy on the part of the population needs to end if we are going to continue the upward trend of understanding and learning that we are so proud of .

Besides, Stewart isn't THAT attractive.

A&E

Spotlight



BY MIKE RYAN / FINELIGHT

Emily Dunne

By Robert Winikates, I and Masha Zolotarev, I
Staff Writter and Contributing Writer

Emily Dunne. How can one sum up her artistic, musical, linguistic and athletic capabilities? Well, do not try to, because two of us did, and one of us ended up blonde. Just remember this: she rolis a baby-blue grandma - like Oldsmobile with one awesome stereo and never challenge her to a game of paintball because she will school you, while shouting something that sounds really mean in German.

While this is an arts spotlight, her non-artistic life is just as important. Emily has her scuba diving license, and has also ran track and played soccer for Boston Latin School. Something that she is proud of is her ability with the German language. It all "took off" in the summer of 2001, when she attended a German immersion program at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. Since then, she has been the president of the German club, which last year placed third in the Mount Holyoke College German Theatre Festival with their production of *The Matrix, auf Deutsch*. In typical Emily style, third place is not good enough, so this year she and the German club will return in a musical that she has written. For those who missed their production of *The Matrix* last year, do not miss this year's play. With the elimination of the German curriculum, Emily has given up her study periods to do an independent study of the German language with Dr. Carroll.

Oh, maybe you wanted to know about her artistic abilities. With her artwork published in the *Argo, The Register,* as well as exhibited in the Boston Public Libraries, *The Boston Herald,* MassArt, and City Hall you might wonder where she learned how to draw and paint so well? She has participated in art programs at MassArt, the Art Institute of Boston, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. She plans to double major in studio art and German in college, so look for her work in the coming years.

Something few people know about is her musical abilities. She has been singing since 1993, and has been hired to be a vocal soloist on numerous occasions. She made All-States this year for her voice, one of three people from the Latin School. She is the president of the High School choir, a member of the hand bell choir at her church, and plays in the instrumental ensemble. She has taken formal piano lessons from the knowledgeable Dr. Bumbry since 1999, and then, in 2001, she began taking formal viola lessons as well. This past holiday season, she and her two of her friends formed a Wilde Christmas Trio and performed all over West Roxbury. All of these musical activities are just grace notes compared to her writing abilities. She has written numerous pieces, ranging in style from classical to more modern compositions.

After reading this, one must think she has one of those "artistic personalities," demanding and tough to deal with. Not so. She's relaxed and easy-going, but if she gets involved with something, you know that she is going to work as hard as she can to make it come out well. If you come across her sitting with her friends, they might be discussing anything from politics, to the latest music theory AP homework, to how one can wear two different shades of eye shadow. Go figure. If you do get to know her well, maybe you'll be lucky enough to engage in some of these conversations.

The Secret Lives of Art Teachers

For many of us, the tireless work and dedication of the Boston Latin School Music and Art Departments have impacted our lives, whether it is a recognition of a passion or talent, a boost in charisma, or even just an additional hobby. But have you ever wondered what your art or music teacher does besides teaching at Boston Latin? They definitely do not sit around all day. Although it is often hard to believe that teachers have actual lives outside of the school, these guys do. By no surprise, they are involved in activities that extend the pursuit of their craft, but also have interests that help mold their characters, the part that makes us appreciate them so much more.

Compiled by Victoria Bartolome, II, and Cindy Lee, II, Photos by Leah Skahen, II and Tracy Fidelman, II

Mr. Simmons

For a few who do not know Mr. Simmons, he is the man behind many of the major choirs at our school. His inspirational teaching and his "cool" and loving character have attracted many students to the Boston Latin music programs, as shown by the rapid growth of choir participation in recent years. Outside of teaching, however, Mr. Simmons leads a very exciting life, which is one of the main reason he encourages students to pursue something they really enjoy and love. Yet he also believes one's goal should have impact, advising students to "follow [their] dream, but make sure it includes others." For his own enjoyment, he plays the piano for different organizations, churches, and faith ministries. Not only a musician, but also a composer, he records his own albums, one of which should be coming out this week. In addition, Mr. Simmons has a career as a



teaching consultant of musicians. This line of work involves character building, which he has obviously incorporated in his role as a teacher at Boston Latin School. As for his outside career, he hopes to help musicians develop their characters and achieve their musical goals. This is something that he is also providing at the Latin School with his new "Serious Musician" program, which is offered to students with a strong and sincere ambition for music. His dream for the school's music department is that someday, music will be an academic class that students attend everyday in their 6-day cycle. Besides music, Mr. Simmons also enjoys black-and-white movies, baseball, and cooking.

Mr. Slevira



One of the newest faculty members of the Music Department is Mr. Slevira, who teaches the string group. He is not only devoted to teaching his skill, but is also very approachable and loves to get to know his students. Professionally, he is a violinist who is involved with many musical productions at many theaters. One such group is the Boston Opera, which performs at the Colonial Theater. He also plays for the Boston Ballet, of which he has been a part for seven years, participating in projects such as the recording of the Sleeping Beauty CD. He plays for the Wang Center as well, performing in traveling shows for guest artists such as Donny Osmond and Bjork. In the summertime, he plays the violin for two chamber groups, the Travellers and the Ensemble Suave, and although he doesn't compose, he often likes to improvise music. Comparing his outside career with his teaching career at Boston Latin, he finds them to be very complimentary, feeling that at this school, he has the chance to pass on skills that he learns as a professional musician to his students. As a professional violinist, he hopes to continue entertaining audiences, but he hopes to continue to develop the talents of the string orchestras and to have them find their craft in music both enjoyable and exciting. To progressing musicians, he offers the advice, "...be happy practicing, enjoy the process. Progress will happen."

Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy

By Bieta Andemariam, I
Assistant A&E Editor

On February 16, a small group of Boston Latin School students had access to a scene reading at the Loeb Drama Center in Cambridge, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Freeman.

Tony Kushner, best known for his seven-hour play, *Angels in America*, has allowed his newest play, *Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy*, to be performed as a work-in-progress. Cambridge Forum staged it as a benefit reading and invited three panelists to share their ideas and opened up the audience for discussion, hence, a forum.

The play centers on Laura Bush and intends to make a very clear political statement about the Bush administration. It is set in some odd limbo-land, where a very vital Bush is able to sit down with the spirits of dead Iraqi children and read to them her favorite story, *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Dostoevsky. She is accompanied by an angel, the only other speaking part in the scene (the Iraqi children at the reading were represented by stools and did not speak, but rather sang). The focus of the play was how Bush chose to confront the consequences of her husband's choices, wrestling with sympathy for the children, and a duty to her husband. She finally concludes with the conviction that, although being confronted by these dead Iraqi children, she must honor her duty and concludes, in the final line of the scene, "I adhere to my ideas."

This scene was obviously highly critical of Laura Bush and her husband. The scene's only humor was directed mainly at making fun of Laura Bush's quirkiness or her snide remarks about the President's appearance. Such caricaturing of the President and the First Lady drew the contempt of Lee Habeeb, one of the panclists, who, as one of the sole conservatives in the theatre, held his own remarkably well.

The heated discussion after the reading was often led from the play to other topics in current events. Such a play that stimulates its listeners enough to make connections to other ideas is generally a success. But, Kushner's play lacked the thrust needed to affect a provoeative new type of thought. Kushner, after receiving much backlash about his seene, has admitted that releasing it as a work-in-progress was probably a mistake. The scene read is clearly the seed of a bigger idea that, like all artistic beginnings, will hopefully take on a more brilliant form with development.



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A&E

Mr. Harper



But of course one cannot forget the BLS bands, some of which are conducted under Mr. Harper. He often takes younger musicians such as those in the Junior Band, setting them well on their way to what Mr. Harper considers a "lifelong journey" of playing and developing a relationship with an instrument. Yet besides invoking this passion in students, Mr. Harper is also professionally involved with Jazz bands outside of school. In the summer, he plays the saxophone for different groups. He finds that this experience enhances what he does in the school year. He explains, "I get a chance to get involved in the music of the day and try to bring that back to the school." He enjoys playing the saxophone and hopes to continue. At Boston Latin, his goal is to impart to his students the same love of music that he feels. Advice he offers is, "don't be afraid to make mistakes." But of course, besides music, all of us know how much he loves baseball, even though to our dismay, he is a Yankees fan.

Mr. Harris



If you are walking around the fifth floor and you happen to bump into a tall man with white hair, I must say you have just met our school's wizard, who has great powers with clay. He is our very own Mr. Harris, who teaches AP Art and the eighth grade connections art. Besides being committed to teaching and enriching the students' ability in art, he also leads a fulfilling and enriching life. If you search through the yellow pages, you may find his name because he runs his own solo business called the Architectural Restoration Ornamental Plaster. Contractors call him to restore architectural details, such as sculptures of the interior and exterior of commercial and private buildings. He also helps his wife at the Irish Culture Center, an organization, which holds plays and puppet shows. He creates the props for them and is currently working on a small play for St. Patrick's Day. While living his dual life as an art teacher and a businessman, his goals are to find enough time to work on his own artwork so that one day he might have his own solo art show. It balances nicely for him because as a trained sculptor, he is able to use his knowledge lucratively and to practice the art of sculpting. He enjoys teaching very much and encourages the student body to "Always follow your dreams and try your best to achieve it or at some point in your life you may have regrets. Do what you are good at and have something to fall back on but it would be best to find a career in life which you are happy with." Now that you have a new perspective of Mr. Harris, you may wish to stop by the fifth floor and say hello.

Mr. Byron



Also hidden up on the fifth floor is our 7th grade art teacher Mr. Byron. He leads a very fulfilling life outside of school. He works for summer art programs in museums and schools. Whiles teaching, he also works in commercial and consulting for artists, and calligraphy for special occasions such as weddings, films and public relations. Mr. Byron is involved with the United South in Settlement, a non-profit organization, which sells art projects. Among this list, he also works on murals and photography while helping students with their art portfolios. However, his time is not only filled with art; he has many other interests. In fact he is involved with archery, chess, fashion clubs and occasionally fencing. Along with his commitment to the school and other organizations, he hopes one day to open his own business, a graphic studio specializing in calligraphy, book biding, illustration and historical prints. He has high hopes for his career and his students, enjoying the balance between his teaching at school and outside organizations very much. He said, "Before I came here, I didn't think I would like teaching, but now, I enjoy teaching the students, the new upcoming groups, and watching the students progress with their artwork." His advice to all art students is, "Time is not your friend, work hard."

True Players

By James Barned-Smith, IV
Staff Writer

When one thinks of the Boston Latin School Drama Club, he or she will usually think of Center Stage Productions—responsible for the plays such as The Laramie Project—or of the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe. There is another group, however, that is undeservedly overlooked: the Peer Players.

The Peer Players are a Boston Latin School company of talented Shakespearean actors, founded a few years ago by Drama advisor Sarah Teasdale. In the past, English teachers could take their classes to see the Players act out a scene, and afterwards participate in a brief diseussion led by one or more of the Players. This was an extremely valuable tool for teachers; it helped students understand the way Shakespeare used language, and, more importantly, to experience the play rather than to just read it. All members of the Peer Players belonged to Class III or above, though students of Class IV or Class V could be accepted as understudies.

Last year, the Players more or less fell off the map—no auditions were held, and rehearsals were sporadic throughout the year. Furthermore, with the graduations of numerous senior actors, the Peer Players looked dangerously close to extinction. However, earlier this year, Natasha Ramanayke (I), a member of the company, took it upon herself to revive the Players. Even then, things were a challenge—auditions had to be postponed, and a further casting call had to be made to fill out the ranks. Moreover, shortly after auditions had been held, Ramanayke turned over directorship of the Players to the less experienced, but not less talented, hands of Rhadika Garland (III). This ultimately proved to be another setback in the revival of the Players.

Despite this turbulence, however, the Players, have survived. Furthermore, is clear that they deserve recognition, not just for being another branch of Boston Latin's award winning Drama Club, but also for being a group of the best young Shakespearean actors and actresses in the area. So, my friends, sit up and take notice: the Peer Players have returned.

Pretty Paintings

By Bora Plaku, II
Head Copy Editor

If you have been by the Copley Library lately, you have probably noticed that they have taken down the nice, colorful canvases that had been adorning the face of the building since last spring. Yet the paintings, created by the City of Boston Mural Crew as a part of the John Singer Sargent project, have not outlived their welcome; they have instead been moved to make way for new canvasses. That's right. The Mural Crew has undertaken a new project. The occasion? The upcoming Democratic Convention, which this year will be held in our fine city. The topic? The past heroes, who over the centuries have assembled in Boston to march, speak and even sing against injustice.

This year's projeet involves many of the upper-classmen at Boston Latin. Jennifer Lawrence (II), Martha O'Connell (II), Bora Plaku (II), Nicholas DiStefano (II) and William Zolla (II) have been faithfully meeting in the basement of the Youth Services building to ensure that the paintings get done on time. Mentoring them is Gregg Bernstein, a professional artist who has been with the Crew since 1995, four years after its founding by painter Heidi Schork. Under Gregg's stern tutelage, the small group of budding artists meets every Wednesday and Thursday, regardless of rain, snow, sleet or hail, to paint faces of prominent freedom fighters such as Paul Revere, Christopher Lloyd and Melnea Cass. Is it hard? Speaking as a particpating painter, yes. Yet, volunteering with other talented teens while being taught by the best artists is an opportunity not many citics offer. I think, therefore, that my fellow painters will agree when I say that being a part of this is worth all the hours spent sniffing latex house paint, making crooked lines, or staring at a white canvass.

Spotlight



BY MIKE RYAN / FINELIGHT

Rashad Hardaway

By Lily Mooney, I
Contributing Writer

There was a time when I believed that Rashad Hardaway was stalking me. He spends an obscene amount of time in the arts' wing, especially after school. Since I am also a tenant in this part of Boston Latin, I see him there constantly, wandering around with clarinet in hand and reed in mouth, sitting in the Music computer lab, exiting the Chorus Room, or simply walking to music class. And if he's not there, he's usually somewhere near my locker; having just come from Step Squad, he practices his steps there in the hall. This, however, isn't just a clever ruse to freak me out. In fact, it's either a testament to how incredibly artistically active Rashad is, or an indication that I may have mild paranoia—'cause even if Rashad isn't, Mr. Flynn is definitely stalking me. When I first found out I would be writing a spotlight on Rashad, I knew a few things about him as an artist, and had perceived that he had a great sense of humor; through an interview, I discovered how surprisingly gifted and dedicated he is in several areas.

Rashad has been playing the clarinet at BLS for 6 years, and also currently plays the bass clarinet in Concert Band. In addition, he is a member of the Chamber Ensemble and has played with the Pep Band for three years. "I've been really devoted to music since the 4th grade, when I started playing the flute," he says. He was a member of Gospel Choir for four years, and now sings tenor as one of five guys in Show Choir. He began singing with his church choir when he was young, and has even sung for Nelson Mandela. He also has musical aspirations for the future: he hopes to minor in music in college and possibly teach music at the high school level. "And if I don't become a music teacher, and become a doctor instead, I definitely want to still play and I'm definitely going to join the pep band at whatever college I go to." He also describes a specific "weird hope" of learning to play the soprano saxophone. He currently takes Music Theory AP. When asked to list his favorite types of music, Rashad says, "I'm an everything kind of guy. I like everything but country! And I'm very open to new styles."

Yet Rashad's abilities don't stop here. In addition to his musical pursuits, Rashad is the captain of the Latin School Step Squad, has been stepping for 6 years. He's also the chairperson of the Great Boston Step Association, which he describes as "a regional league that links together the step squads to promote healthy competition and performances". In addition to all of this, he makes up some of his own steps. "And I definitely will never stop stepping unless I'm ninety years old and have deadly arthritis that would cause my bones to shatter if I moved one bit," he added when listing his plans for the future. Rashad took photography courses when they were offered at BLS, and continues to do it independently. He is also a poet, and aspires to one day publish a collection of his works. Summing it all up, he said, "I just couldn't imagine my life without art." It is a huge part of everything he does, and his devotion will surely continue throughout his entire life.

His is an amazing list of achievements. Hmm. Maybe I should start stalking him.

Brown Paper Kittens That Melt into Spring—These Are a Few of My Favorite Things!

By Katie Chong, I
Head Copy Editor

Yes, we did have have a little trouble figuring out the lyrics to that song. Anyways...

As you may (or may not) know, Argo production week is a hectic time for all of us on the staff. However, not all of Argo is stress, pain and insanity. Well, I take that back-Argo is driven on bursts of insanity from its staff, but it is this insanity that makes the paper what it is.

In previous issues, you may have seen some inexplicable articles, crosswords and photos that seem to have no relation to anything else in the paper. The page on which these appear is known as the Fun Page. Although it does not seem very entertaining or amusing, I assure you that the various writers and editors spent a considerable amount of time on this material (as well as on all other materials on the other pages). This, however, is not *just* a random article on the Fun Page: it is an introduction to the joys of working here on the Argo staff and all the new experiences you would encounter if you were here.

Monday and Tuesday are generally pretty calm days, since the majority of the articles are not yet in, despite the deadline the week before. An article is edited by section editors and then turned over to the copy editors, who proceed to tear it apart-in search of elusive spelling and grammar errors. This is usually why the section editors, when they get the article back, proceed to rant and rave about how the article no longer sounds like the original, since so much of the writer's original voice has been lost with the loss of the grammatical errors. (I have not yet come across an article with less than 10 errors. Sorry, writers.) Anyhow, the section editor will then replace most of the words removed by the grammar fiends and the article is tenderly replaced in its folder where it awaits the layout staff.

Layout then begins its job—usually on Wednesday, if not later—and places all of the articles onto the page. (Well, if you haven't figured that out by now, I don't know what you're still doing here at this school.) Of course, while layout is busily working, section editors and copy editors are feverishly working to edit the remaining late articles for those who don't understand the word "deadline." (Maybe I shouldn't be talking, since this article is being written on the afternoon of Final Friday.)

Thursday is the day on which all the insanity and frustration of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday that has been built up begins to leak out. People begin to dread coming up to 307 for six or more hours of "work." Of course, there are some moments when we just break down and are reduced to babbling idiots, but some of us are still strong enough to withstand the call of insanity. In previous issues, some of this stress was relieved by holding chariot races and screaming randomly in the halls of the third floor, scaring those random people who had decided to stay at school for that long. Dinner, of course, is eaten as a group. (Well, not in 307, since Ms. Freeman has forbidden food in her room.)

This Thursday, we decided to make use of the Bertucci's that is now around the corner from here across from the parking lot of Children's Hospital. This decision was made after a long discussion (for "discussion," read "screaming match") during which we debated the merits of the various sources of sustenance. Anyways, several representatives were sent to Bertucci's to order the pizza and meet the rest of the staff at Longwood Galleria to eat it. For those of you who are not yet laughing at us, you probably do not know that Bertucci's does not open until March 15.

In an effort to save face, the unnamed representatives decided to travel to the next nearest Bertucci's to get food. After all, who wants to be thought of as an idiot? We had already argued that Bertucci's was open, and so we ordered the pizza by phone and walked down to Kenmore Square to pick it up. For all those on the Argo staff who are learning about this expedition now, you can thank us for our consideration of your hunger and our decision to go out of our way to please you.

Burdened with six pizzas, four sodas and a big bag of yummy rolls, we decided to take a taxi back to Longwood, since the others decided not to listen to me when I told them that we could take the *bus* from Kenmore. Walking into the Galleria an hour later, we were greeted by shouts of joy, as we were trampled by all the hungry people in their efforts to get at the food. There was some initial confusion when one person thought that the rolls were potatoes, and another swore that there was an anchovy in the middle of the pizza that tasted exactly like an olive. It looked like an olive too. Dinner went by with little other confusion, although there was a brief moment of panic when a layout editor and the assistant editor-in-chief began going at each other with the free knives and forks. Of course, they were well protected from harm, since one wore glasses and the other wore contacts. (Well, perhaps the contacts aren't as safe, but we'll let that pass.) They finally turned to catapulting tomato sauce at each other with the knives, since the forks could not withstand the ponderous blows.

The voyage back to school was no less exciting. With most of us hyperactive from the food and drink, we skipped and ran and screamed down the streets of Boston. (Had you seen us, you probably would not have recognized us as the solemn, dignified Latin School students Ms. Kelley expects us to be.) Thankfully, the rest of Thursday passed with little other insanity, although there was a moment when a frustrated copy editor injured her toes when it came into contact with a door while traveling at high velocity.

Final Friday, of course, is usually very hectic, with people running around tearing their hair out wondering what happened to everything. Articles usually grow legs and walk out of folders, disgruntled pages decide to change their layout, and the Fun Page editor is notified that there will be a whole page for her to work with. Seeing as how the crossword for this issue defiantly refused to fit in all of its letters, we have been unable to produce one. I apologize to all those crossword fanatics in advance.

Anyhow, Final Friday usually decides not to end until the wee hours of Saturday morning or, if we are lucky, the daylight hours of Saturday morning. This issue, however, is not expected to be as such. Here's to hoping!

In Case You Are Interested in Your Future...

By Ashlyn Garry, III & Ariane Williams, I
Staff Writer & Assistant News Editor

Aries (Mar. 20 – Apr. 19): Invest in a sand garden. It will give you inner peace. It will also put you on better terms with the neighbor's cats.

Taurus (Apr. 20 – May 19): Next time you see a beautiful blond chick asleep in a castle, make out with her. If she wakes up, it's true love. If she doesn't wake up, you made a new comatose friend. In any event, you're a pervert.

Gemini (May 20 – Jun. 20): After much arduous soul-searching, you will come to an epiphany regarding your personal life-quest. You will be wrong. Dead wrong.

Cancer (Jun. 21 – Jul. 21): It's in the couch.

Leo (Jul. 22 – Aug. 22): Getting a potted plant to lavish all your love and attention on was a good idea. Unfortunately, the one to which you have given your heart is actually made of plastic, and it's moldy.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 21): Go through with your spring vacation plans; the armed rebellion was in Haiti, not Rhode Island. Your newspaper was missing a page.

Libra (Sept. 22 – Oct. 22): Hit on Capricorns this month; they totally sweat you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21): Don't expose it to bright lights, don't feed it after midnight and DON'T GET IT WET.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21): The chances of you incurring severe paper-related wounds in the next month are high; wear thimbles at all times and try to avoid dangerous-looking paper products.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19): Ignore the Libras.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 17): Taking archery lessons will greatly improve your chances of survival when you fall through a hole in the space-time continuum and end up in the year 1066. The Battle of Hastings, however, is a lost cause.

Pisces (Feb. 18 – Mar. 19): The bicycle-riding penguin you keep seeing is real. However, it was lying when it said it could fly. Penguins can't fly.

And If You Prefer Asian Clairvoyance...

By Ashlyn Garry, III, Lisa Jing, III & Ariane Williams, I
Staff Writer, Staff Writer & Assistant News Editor

In case you're Asian-culture illiterate, here's a loose guide to your respective horoscope sign. For the other 20-25% of the world, bie fan ying zhe ju hua!

Brought to you by the omniscient and ever-clairvoyant Madame Arlynisa. And if Madame Arlynisa's mailperson happens to be reading this, he should stop stealing the perfume samples from her fashion magazines. She sees all.

Seniors (1986): Tiger
Tigers are bold, brave and impulsive. You, however, are weak-willed, hesitant and crippled by your fear of invisible dust motes. So much for this horoscope crap.

Juniors (1987): Rabbit
Give it up, man. Trix are for kids.

Sophomores (1988): Dragon
Stay away from that Jackie Paper kid. He's trouble.

Freshmen (1989): Snake
Your fear of reptiles is symptomatic of self-hatred. Get in touch with your roots and rent *Anaconda*.

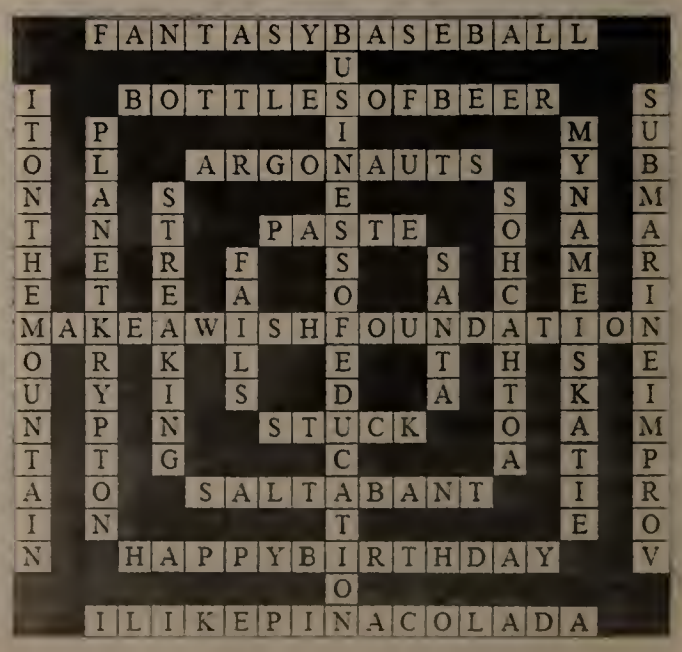
Fivesies (1990): Horse
You're taking this horoscope thing way too seriously. Nailing horseshoes onto your feet was a pretty bad idea.

Sixies (1991): Sheep
We know you love her, but she needs some personal space. You should never have followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day...

If you're not on here, then you're either too old or too young to be in this school; you belong elsewhere. Go away.

Answers to Issue III Crossword

The crossword editor apologizes for the errors in this crossword. If you did not notice the errors, then please disregard this note. Thank you for your cooperation. I wish you the best of luck with this issue's invisible crossword.



No Hat-Trick For Girls Hockey

By Adam Fleischer, III
Staff Writer

Heading into the beginning of the 2003-2004 season, the girls' hockey team knew what they were setting out to do: win their second state title in three years. Everyone on the squad, including the coaching staff, seniors, fivesies, and everyone in between, recognized what this very talented team could accomplish. The girls knew talent could only take them so far. Hard work, determination, and teamwork would handle the rest.

Led by captains Catherine Foley (II) and Katie Balaconis (II), along with head coach Marty McDonough and his three assistants, the girls practice on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays in South Boston. Not only are they constantly working to get better, but they also enjoy being around each other. This chemistry is crucial to any team's success. If there are ever any problems, or if the girls feel that something should be discussed, they don't hesitate to call team meetings, something which has helped this team bond. These key factors have helped the Wolfpack attain an admirable 13-3-3 regular season record.

Out of the gate, the girls were on fire, going 6-0-1 in their first seven games. The team had key wins against Fontbonne (6-2) and Arlington (4-3) on back-to-back days. The scoring attack, led by Foley, co-captains Amy Katowsky (III) and Michelle Carter (I), Shannon Devlin (III), Samantha Morrissey (III) and others, provided the offense that was needed to help the girls win, and served to supply young goalie Mariella Collins (IV) with the confidence to continue to play well.

The next game was a big one for the Pack, as they faced Dedham, one of the best teams in the state. In recent years, the two teams have played some great games against each other and provided one another with superb competition. Three years ago, when some of the players on this young team were not even at Boston Latin, the two teams battled through three regulation periods and into overtime before packing it up for the night. It wasn't because the game was over, though. Instead, it was because it had gotten too late. The schools showed up again the next day to do battle, and the game eventually ended in four overtimes with a Dedham win. This season, when they first clashed on January 11, Dedham once again was able to top Latin. It was the girls' first loss of the season. Like any strong team with goals and initiative, the girls rebounded. They went on to win their next seven games, enhancing their impressive record to 13-1-1, and were ranked by the *Boston Globe* as a top-five team. The girls cooled off towards the end of the regular season, going 0-2-2 in their final four games. Despite the end-of-season slip up, the team advanced to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Girls Division 1 Hockey Tournament. This was the start of the hopeful state championship run. This was the real season. When you lay it all on the line, it was win or go home.



BY KATIE CHONG, I

In the first game of the tournament, the Wolfpack were matched up with a familiar opponent, Arlington. Although the ladies had already downed Arlington twice this season (4-3 both times) they knew it was vital not to take this game lightly, but to go in focused and with the task at hand on their minds. They did just that, keeping with their regular season trend of scoring four goals against Arlington, this time coming out on top 4-1. The scoring was spread out, as the Pack got goals from Foley, Kathleen Roche, Stefanie McGrath, and Morrissey. The girls were excited, but knew that celebrations had to be at a minimum since there was still a tough task ahead. That tough task ended up being Dedham, the team's second round opponent, and one of only three teams whom the girls had fallen to this season. It was a hard-fought battle, but Dedham wound up ousting the Wolfpack from the tourney, winning 3-1, thus ending the girls' season all too soon. Although this year's team proved to be victorious, next year's team will be superb as well. Losing only two seniors, and led by returning all-star captains Foley and Balaconis, next year seems like it just might be the year in which they return to glory.

Significant Swim-provements

By Catherine Foley, II
Staff Writer

If you didn't get a chance to check out the boys' swim team this season, quite frankly, you missed out. They swam (and dove) into one of the best seasons they have had in a while. Joe Kane (II) looks forward to next season, hoping that "even more guys will sign up." The prospect of next year is indeed exciting, but this one was successful to be sure.

Leading the team as captains are Stewart Wing (II), who specializes in sprinting and freestyle, Joe Kane, who shows his skill in every event, and Jeff Hull (II), who masters the diving. The team clinched the fifth out of 10 spots in the DCL (Dual County League), and the eighth out of 12 in the DCL championship meet. Three swimmers missed qualifying for the sectionals: Wing for the 100 free, 500 free, Preston Bays (II) for 100 backstroke, and Jeff Bausemer (II) for the 100 fly.

It comes as a surprise to no one that Hull, a clutch performer, one-meter springboard diver, and possessor of the best score in the DCL, finished this season as a two-time DCL all-star. This year he was seeded first at the 2004 state championships. For the past two years, he has not only won the DCL, but has also finished with an impressive second place at the North Sectionals.

The team's only senior, St. John Barned-Smith, has, according to Hull, "one of, if not the best, attitudes on the team." With this lack of seniority, young swimmers have had to make big strokes. Two underclassmen who caught the eyes of spectators are speedy Peter Gels (IV) and the very talented breaststroker David Yazbeck (VI). They are waiting in the waves to show their potential and will have breakout seasons in the coming years.

A key to such future success is their new coach, Charles "Curley" Peterson. Hull proudly describes him as "the best thing that's happened to this team in a while." As he says, "we will build a team that will be a force to be reckoned with." The boys feel confident that they are a strong team in training at the Murphy School in Dorchester. Winning is no longer a stretch, and he predicts that "we will make a showing at the championship meets next year." Couple approaching goals optimistically with skill from captain to young trainee, and it is more than possible that they are headed for success.

Final Winter Standings

Team	W	L	T
Boys' Basketball	13	8	0
Girls' Basketball	5	15	0
Boys' Hockey	12	7	3
Girls' Hockey	14	4	1
Girls' Indoor Track	2	5	1
Boys' Indoor Track	0	8	0
Boys' Swimming	5	7	0
Boys' Wrestling	4	10	0

Girls' Basketball—Packed With Pride

By Ian Chong, I
Contributing Writer

Winter is known for its dismal weather, festive holidays, and much-needed snow days. It is a season to admire the snow, yet moan about the traffic it causes; a time of highs and lows, full of anticipation and excitement. This year's season for the Boston Latin School girls' basketball team is no less bittersweet. The record reflects a losing team, but the season was anything but a failure. The team brings several words to mind: determination, hard work, leadership, and unity. Although the girls garnered a losing 5-15 season, they have been able, under the leadership of Head Coach Bennie Myers, to perfect the old cliché "There's no 'I' in team."

At the helm of this well-oiled basketball machine were captains Kristen Stone (I), Janelle Jackson (I), and Jillian Gordon (I), who ensured that the team was motivated and mentally prepared for each game of the season. The captains themselves are highly capable players on the court. Kristen Stone earned the distinguished honor of co-League MVP this year—not that it came as a surprise to her supportive teammates. Stone had many impressive games, including two this season where she scored 27 points, and racked a remarkable season high of 35 points against Weston. On the court, Jackson and Gordon further lifted the team by scoring key shots and pulling down rebounds.

With the end of this season, a total of six seniors, including the aforementioned trio of captains, are departing. The remaining three are Gayle Guilford (I), Katherine Walsh (I) (remembered for draining five threes in a game), and Katie McDonald (I). Not only do these girls possess "nasty" basketball skills, but they also embody the character that helped create the depth of the team. The camaraderie of the team was evident in practices where the girls exchanged lighthearted jokes, but the determination shone through on the court. Come game time, it was fierce play.

Although the absence of this year's seniors will be clearly evident, the seven returning players will help lead the BLS team into another season. Next year's team will be led by captains Melissa Gilmore (II), Maura Donnelly (III), and Cassie Kull (III). Caroline Sullivan (II), who will prove to be a key player next year had this to say about next year's prospects: "Although we lost many seniors this year, we have a strong core of players returning, and there is much talent on the junior varsity team that will make the team next year a great one." The heart of this team was also obvious when they showed the seniors their appreciation through the decoration of the gym and the locker room for Spirit Day.

The BLS girls' basketball team made it clear that records don't necessarily reflect all the hard work put into each game, nor does an impersonal set of numbers record the fun they had throughout the season. This year's squad definitely bonded and came to know one another very well. Although they experienced a tough season, it will not be forgotten: the girls learned the true meaning of a team, and a promising future is still on the horizon.

Spotlight
Brian Nowak



BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

By Kassandra Skipper, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Sticking out as one of the few redheads in the senior class, Brian Nowak has another characteristic: incredible athletic talent that sets him apart from many students. Playing on Varsity teams as early as 8th grade, Brian is one of Boston Latin's "quiet" athletes. He has created an impressive name and gained much respect both in the Dual County League and in the school over the past five years.

Brian started playing Junior Varsity baseball in the 8th grade. He is an outfielder and is one of the best pitchers on the team. With these teams outside of BLS, he has had the opportunity to travel all over the country. He has been to Florida, Delaware and New York, and competed throughout New England. Brian tried out for the Bay State games in 2003 and made it onto the championship team. For the upcoming season, the team is strong and he hopes to finish up his senior season strong. Anthony Poulos (I), a good friend and fellow teammate, talks about Brian's contribution to the team, "Nowak's a good pitcher. We don't know if he is good or if he just distracts the batter with his red hair, but he gets the job done. Nowak is also a good leader. He plays hard and he's dedicated; we have a solid team this year, and Nowak's a big part of it."

During the winter, Brian occupies much of his time wrestling. For those of you who don't know, wrestling is by far one of the most physically and mentally challenging sports offered at BLS. Brian has been on the varsity team since 8th grade. Even more impressively, he has qualified for the state tournament sophomore, junior and senior year. Last year as a junior, he took 6th place at the Division 2 State Championship meet. He was made a DCL all-star junior year, and thus was acknowledged as one of the elite athletes in the league. This year, Brian won the Canton Tournament and has accumulated 95 career wins throughout his years on the team. Brian Pastore (I) has been wrestling with Brian since the 9th grade and says, "He's a friggin' beast. He is a skilled wrestler and his accomplishments and wins show it. Whenever I am told I have to wrestle him, I know I am going to end up on my back."

Despite the fact that Brian is one the best wrestlers and baseball players in the school, he is extremely modest. He doesn't talk about his athletic accomplishments unless you make a point to ask him about them, and even then, he makes things like winning the Canton Tournament seem like no biggie. A leader in both the wrestling and baseball teams, he gives 110 percent throughout the season.

I've known Brian since the 8th grade and it has been a pleasure becoming friends over the years. Aside from being a very talented athlete, he is a hard working student and a great friend. He might be a "beast" on the playing field, but with his friendly personality and extremely humble attitude, you would never know it. As the weather starts getting nicer, make sure you find time to stop by Moakley Park and watch Brian and the team wow the rest of us.

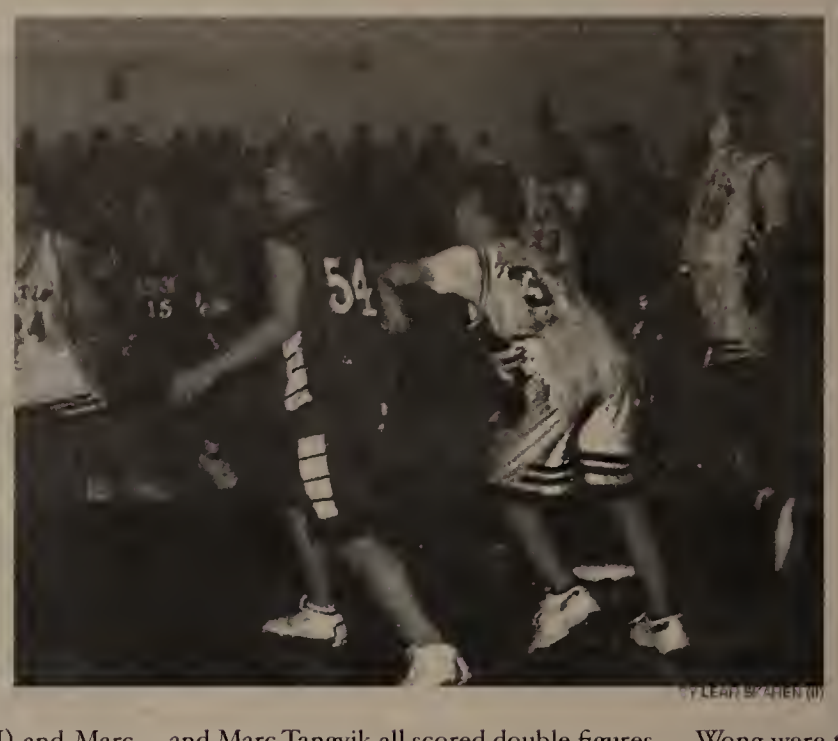
Fighting To The Finish

By Sam Akiba, II
Staff Writer

An eight-game winning streak in the midst of an amazing 13-8 record – it's not a fifteen-game winning streak and a Super Bowl Championship, but the Wolfpack Nation will take it. This rollercoaster ride of a season, though ending in heartbreak at Acton-Boxboro, has brought respect back to Boston Latin School basketball.

The team showed it was capable of winning high-scoring contests when they beat Newton South 70-64, and that they could win lower scoring defensive battles when they beat Westford 56-54. Even after tough losses, the team did not hang their heads, it was clear throughout the whole season that they knew they were competitors. Led by co-MVP of the Dual County League Nick Michel (II) and fellow all-stars Sean Martin (II) and Marc Tangvik (II) the team earned an 11th seed spot in the Division 1 North section of the M.I.A.A tournament; it was their first entry into the tournament since 1997.

Anyone who missed their first-round game against number six seed Waltham missed possibly the best-played half in Boston Latin basketball history. Down eight at halftime they came roaring back and scored an astonishing 49 points in the latter half of the game, completing a 27 point turnaround with an 80-61 victory. Nick Michel put on quite a show, scoring 33 points, missing only two shots. However, it was a team effort that really put the game away. Juniors Reggie Alouidor, Charles Manikes and Marc Tangvik all scored double figures. The team hustled up and down the floor, made smart passes (almost always finding the open man), and most importantly, hit their shots. Not to mention, they played tough defense, giving up only 22 points in the second half. Although outnumbered, the Latin fans made some noise, and it seemed as though the players were able to feed off that support. "It was a tale of two halves," said one excited Wolfpack fan. You could point to intangibles such as momentum, hype and energy, that led to the flip-flop. Though point guard Mike Mitchell feels that "team intensity won the game for us, everyone in the game was giving 110 percent. Everyone on the bench was cheering on the team, and everyone did their part to help us win the game."



The second and final game in the M.I.A.A tournament at Acton-Boxboro was even more intense. It was a back-and-forth battle where the opposing Colonials just barely salvaged a victory on their home court as they came out on top 46-43. Latin played their hearts out, yet came up just short (or wide left) at the buzzer. It was a hard game to swallow, but the fact that they were able to stay in it until the very end showed how much this team has developed.

Next year, two seniors will not be returning; Kevin Bernazzani and Ivan Wong were two players who always gave it their all and supported their teammates as co-captains and Varsity veterans. The self-proclaimed W-unit had one of the most remarkable seasons in recent Latin School history. Although they might not have gone as far as they liked, this team, which won a dismal three games last season, showed vast improvement. With the bulk of the players looking forward to next season, the Wolfpack will be a top DCL contender.

Staying On Track

By Patrick Wu, II
Staff Writer

For too long, indoor track has had the reputation of being a sport that does not require athletic skill, but "merely" relies on endurance. Many claim that it is one of the easiest of sports. Think again. As if competing in the Dual County League is not a tough enough task, the grueling schedule and strenuous practices of this sport will surely make anyone reconsider. Despite a disappointing season for both the Girls' Team (2-5-1) and the Boys' Team (0-8), Coach Denise Pritchard nonetheless raved about the effort of her runners this season, "The record doesn't really matter; everyone did very well this season. Most importantly, they improved their times. I'm very pleased." The records indeed do not reflect the team's commitment; they practiced daily for two hours in the frigid cold and inside the Reggie Lewis Center. This season the team also had a coaching change. This proved to be an outstanding move, as was evident in the two wins posted by the girls' team. The coaching staff and the captains see endless potential for next year's team.

The athletes, especially the sprinters and the distance runners, were very responsive to the coaching change. Practices were efficiently run and more productive, and the team as a whole improved due to the new coaches' efforts. "Coach Cohen... [the new middle and distance coach]... literally searches for hills for us to run—in the cold! But she only wants us to improve our times," said girls' co-captain Kerry Sullivan (I). New coaching was a definite boost to an already talented team. Young runners such as Allison Conelly (III) and Caroline O'Laughin (IV) both qualified for the 600-meter State. Khaleelah Willingham (III), Brittany Canniff (II), and boys' captain Andrew Leone (I) all qualified for the 300-meter State. And above all, Lee Glandorf (II) and Shaun Price (I) both qualified for the State in long jump, proving that the team is more than just one-dimensional: they show promise in both track and field.

There was much to celebrate with the many individual successes on the team, but everyone on the team knows that the team as a whole is more important than any individual achievements. Track is about the camaraderie of the team, and helping each other go through practices and races. "They are always giving each other support during races. It's good to see that they are helping one another," says Coach Pritchard. Senior captains and other veteran runners were all eager to help younger runners. They helped the less-experienced runners with advice, and they often encouraged them through practices and races. Girls' co-captain, senior Liz Tricco, summed it up best: "Track is about accompanying your teammates, helping them, and running alongside them."

Although the team this year cannot be regarded as a formidable opponent in the DCL, their success has been great. With the talent, commitmen and positive leadership, the future of th team seems to grow brighter by the lap.



BY KERRY SULLIV

Latin Iced in Second Round

BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, II
STAFF WRITER

Hockey is one of the most popular and most frequently watched sports here in wintry New England. As the home of the Boston Bruins, who have been in contention for the Stanley Cup several times recently and have harbored hockey legends such as Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito, and Ray Bourque, Boston has a particularly long-standing history with the sport. Boston is also the home of the Beanpot, a competitive tournament among the four leading hockey schools in the area: Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University and Harvard. Boston Latin School carries on this tradition of superb hockey skills; thus far, the boys' hockey team has proved their excellence on the ice as they skate closer and closer to the championships.

Coached again by Mr. Dave Coleman, who has had many years of experience as a successful coach at Latin, the boys have endured a challenging season. They have committed to an intense practice and game schedule, meeting at least four times a week for practice and twice a week for games. At practices, they continue to emphasize basic techniques by executing passing and rebound drills. Their agenda also includes breakout, which develops the team's ability to enter their opponent's zone and thus attempt shots at the goal, and power play drills, which test the team's capability to either play defense without all five players or to score when they have the advantage. With this much practice and commitment, this team has challenged themselves as well as their opponents.



BY KERRY SULLIVAN, I

During the regular season, the team has soared, with eleven wins, three ties, and a mere six losses. This year they are under the leadership of captain Chris Warren (I) and assistant captains Jeff Donaldson (I), Tom Flanagan (I) and Adam Jenness (I), who have guided the team this whole season through thick and thin. Although the team had some devastating losses against Saugus and Tewksbury, they have been victorious against St. Mary's, with a final score of 3-2 in one match. Their success is not only a result of their ability to work as a team, but also a result of the performance of some prominent players. No hockey team would be able to survive without its goalies, perhaps the most important and most difficult positions to play, but Boston Latin has two impeccable ones. John Bruno (II), who has a nearly perfect goals save percentage, and Chris Houlihan (III), who is equally accomplished, serve as the backbone of this team. Tom Derosa (I) and Jimmy Ennis (I) have contributed greatly by becoming the top scorers of the season.

With their skill and determination, the Boston Latin boys' hockey team has earned a spot in the state playoffs. As John Bruno (II) has reported, the team "had been working on team chemistry on the ice and on the mental part of the game to best prepare them." However, their title run fell short with a loss in the second round to the Nauset Warriors. Over the course of this season, the team has bonded and improved from a experience which will prove to be helpful for next season. Although they didn't make it all the way to the FleetCenter for the championship game, the Wolfpack is still eager to make another attempt for victory.

Wrestling for Sectional Success

BY CAROLINE SULLIVAN, II
STAFF WRITER

Undeniably one of the hardest-working teams in the school, the wrestling team always gives it their all. Judging by their effort on the Wolfpack alone, one wouldn't be able to tell whether it was a meet or a practice. One can often find the boys at practice long after every other team has left the building, or see one of wrestlers jogging in the school hallways, trying to cut weight before a meet. Under the leadership of coaches Jeff Gibbons, Adam Pitrowicz and captain Brian Nowak (I), the team has improved over the course of the season. With a core of strong wrestlers, and many others showing steady improvement, the team held their own against tough competition.

The team had a difficult schedule, so the boys had to work twice as hard to prove that they are among the best. This was a welcome challenge. A highlight of the season was a victory over Whitman-Hanson, known for their talented wrestlers. Later in the season, Latin had a tough loss to Holliston, with a score of 41-37. Despite the loss, the Wolfpack wrestled well and impressed the other team.

Recently, in the Sectional Tournament, the Wolfpack fared well, sending four wrestlers to the State Tournament. Jay O'Brien (II) placed fourth in his weight class of 112 lbs. Ben Speicher (IV) came in fourth in his division of 119 lbs. Nowak (spotlighted on page 14) placed fifth in the 145 lbs. division, and Nate Allukian (II) placed second in the 171 lbs. division. At the State Tournament, the boys were up against some of the best wrestlers in the entire state. O'Brien advanced to the semi-finals, but lost on the second day of the tournament. Although none of the boys made it to the All-State Tournament, they represented their team and school very well.

Next year, the team is expected to be better than ever. With many returning wrestlers, the Wolfpack will be more experienced and better able to compete against the challenging teams across the state. Says O'Brien, "Although we are losing three seniors, Nowak, Bob Grueter and Brian Pastore, we have many talented wrestlers returning next year. I am confident that led by the core of juniors, including Steve Armandt and Nate Allukian, our younger wrestlers will step up and we will have a very successful season next year." With such leadership, the Wolfpack is sure to do well next season.

Kerry Defines a Quiet Champion

BY KERRY SULLIVAN, I
SPORTS COLUMNIST

First, this is entirely a matter of opinion, and I do not expect everyone to agree with me. To me, a record of 17–2 and the title of Superbowl Champions do not make the New England Patriots champions. Don't crucify me yet, because I'm not done. I believe that the quality of playing, and level of heart on the New England Patriots allowed them to earn the title of champions. Each player on that team wears a Superbowl ring now because of the indomitable spirit they all possess. It is this spirit and this heart that define a champion. A champion does not always have to be a winner.

It is not the record that determines whether a team or an individual can be deemed a "champion," like the old adage says, "It's the way you play the game." Of course, when you were playing T-Ball, "the way you play the game," meant not crying if you were tagged out. Today, as a high school athlete, in one of the most competitive leagues in Massachusetts, "the way you play the game" has a totally different connotation. "The way you play the game" today is with courage, with determination, with grit, with focus, and mostly, with heart.

It is easier to identify some teams and individuals as champions. For instance, the girls' volleyball team has practically established a dynasty in the Dual County League. It wasn't handed to them on a gilded volleyball court. However, there are many other teams and individuals at Latin School that don't get featured in the *Boston Globe* or *Herald* for being official champions. Neither of the Boston Latin hockey teams won the DCL title, yet both teams played well enough to advance to the second round of the state tournament. Unfortunately, the fate of the girls' hockey team did not differ from that of the boys' hockey or boys' basketball team; they all lost in the second round.

However, I still choose to recognize these young gentlemen as champions because of the tremendous amount of effort and heart they deliver in each of their contests. Likewise, the wrestling team is almost never acknowledged for its ferocious dedication. This team is often still practicing when most of us are sitting down to dinner. If that's not a prime example of dedication and sacrifice, I challenge you to find a better one.

Of course, there are still many more examples of "quiet champions," as I like to call them; they are the soccer players who play until nightfall, the football players tackling on a "field of glass," the sailing team who travels across Boston to rig their sails, the runners logging extra miles in search of bigger, tougher hills, and all of the countless other aspiring athletes in our school. So the next time someone asks you about the champions in your school, don't just point to the musty banners in the gym. Point to a diligent athlete, because chances are, you're pointing at a quiet champion.

Spotlight
Anna George



BY MIRIYA SHINEL, H

BY CORY SAVEREID, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I'll never forget the day Anna dove onto the floor to hit that runaway ping-pong ball at Mad Maggie's pool hall. It was like a volleyball dive, a lot like a belly flop, and completely hilarious. It also illustrates one of Anna's most remarkable characteristics. No, not goofiness (although she has plenty of that, too) but rather, her dedication to sports. This may seem like a ridiculous example of dedication, but I assure you, if she hadn't made that amazing, although painful, save, it could have cost her points in the silly little game we were playing, and that's not her way.

Anna George has made her mark in Wolfpack Athletics. Anna has played three seasons since the eighth-grade: volleyball in the fall, indoor track in the winter and softball in the spring. In addition, she has also played on a demanding club volleyball team, Newton Smash, since the ninth grade. Next year, Anna will be playing volleyball for Hamilton College, where she will be a "Posse" scholar, an honor distinguishing her as both an excellent student and a leader in her community. She manages to juggle her extensive athletic commitments with many challenging classes and projects such as the ambitious Seevak competition, and still has the time to be a great sister, a caring friend, and an extremely fun person.

We are now in the lull between the winter and spring sports, which means that Anna has just finished indoor track and is gearing up for softball. Track is not Anna's top sport, but she still brings dedication and spirit to the team, participating both in the hurdles (her favorite) and the long jump. She has played softball since the second grade, and she still loves the game today. Anna pitches and plays outfield for the Wolfpack, and is this year's captain. Anna has made vast improvement since the 8th grade, going from once pitching over batters' heads to being a fixture on the Latin team. She has always enjoyed baseball—even a pick-up game at a George family barbecue.

Volleyball is Anna's true love and the best exhibition of her talent as an athlete. Having played with her since the eighth grade, I have witnessed the energy and heart that Anna puts into every spike, every grueling practice, and especially every game. As captain of the Wolfpack in 2003, she provided the enthusiasm and encouragement our team needed to attain our third straight Dual County League championship and a high ranking in the state tournament. After losing six all-star players to graduation last year, we were not expected to provide competition for the other DCL teams. However, with hard work and Anna's leadership, we were able to defeat tough rivals like Newton South, and take the league. Anna was named the DCL's MVP, a title she definitely deserves, not only for her incredible talent but also for her sportsmanship. Like all of us, she was sad to see a great season end with a frustrating defeat to Quincy, but she still has a lot to look forward to including games with her club team and the Hamilton Continentals.

Anna's dedication to sports is only one facet of her warm and fun-loving personality. Her undying enthusiasm, her great work ethic, and her contagious smile will continue to bring her victory and success regardless of the odds.

Spring Training '04: Fort Myers, FL

By Carolyn Bird, II
Argo Sports Reporter

Last season ended in heartbreak for a team of bald-headed, down-and-dirty guys with a lot of guts, both literally and figuratively. But they played hard and they played well, and their fans expect no less from them this year. So what, exactly, should we expect from this year's team? "See you next October!" says Theo Epstein, Sox General Manager.

It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Fort Myers, Florida; pitchers and catchers are taking the field for the first official practice of Spring Training. Although Pedro Martinez was absent due to a medical emergency in the family, the rest of the Sox' Fab Four starting rotation were present and accounted for. Curt Schilling, a welcome addition to the roster in the number two slot, is primed and ready for action. He threw off a mound on Thursday and Friday at City of Palms Park and participated in drills with the other pitchers on Saturday and Sunday at the minor league complex. Derek Lowe is looking great and Tim Wakefield seems to have shaken off that one horrendous pitch to Aaron Boone and is predicted to have a career year as the number four starter. The fifth slot is a question mark. Will it be Byung-Hyun Kim, the young submariner? Or Bronson Arroyo, the lanky lefty who unassumingly gets the outs? Not even Arroyo himself is confident one way or the other. "We'll have to see" he says. With a couple of seasoned veterans and not one but two aces, this one through five rotation with either Arroyo or Kim should be able to shut opponents down; it's up to the bullpen to knock them out.



COURTESY OF REDSOX.COM

Epstein and Co. have worked exhaustively to reinforce a bullpen that started off last season shakily and with no real closer. The addition of right-handed pitcher Keith Foulke as closer allows RHP Scott Williamson to slip into a set-up roll. Long relief would fall on Arroyo if Kim were a starter. Should Arroyo start, Kim would be used either in long relief or as a set-up man. Sox fans should expect more of the same brilliance from RHP Mike Timlin and left-handed pitcher Alan Embree, both of whom could be relied on last season to perform when needed. Ramiro Mendoza, a major flop last year, is not expected to make the team, and there is speculation that he will be released. With only one lefty guaranteed, some fans are wondering whether manager Terry Francona will opt for eleven pitchers to add another lefty instead of keeping an extra position player. LHP Mark Malaska, a former Tampa Bay Devil Ray, was told by one fan that she hoped to see him up in Boston. His response? "I hope to see me in Boston, too!"

Whether Malaska makes it this year or not, or whether any hopeful lefty makes it will be determined by the number of position players Francona decides to keep. Kevin Millar was his usual buoyant self, joking with teammates, coaches, and the fans in between taking infield and batting practice. Brian Daubach, a non-roster invitee back from the Chicago White Sox, was also there. Despite looking much better than his former days with the Red Sox, Daubach will be hard-pressed to make the team, with competition for a spot coming from Millar, David Ortiz, and Ellis Burks. Second baseman Tony Womack also took infield and batting practice, along with outfielder Gabe Kapler. With an abundance of outfielders, Kapler didn't get much playing time last season; he was seen fielding some balls at third base, presumably hoping for some at-bats as a back-up for Bill Mueller.

As we crawl closer to Opening Day 2004 with a number of "core" players in the last year of their contracts, fans and players alike are wondering what is going to become of the Boston Red Sox this season and after. There may not have been any promises made yet on who will and will not be back, but Kevin Millar, always looking on the bright side, can promise us this: "The mullet will be back."

Ready for Not-So-Off Season

By Thomas Ahmadifar, III
Staff Writer

THE PATRIOTS WON THE SUPER BOWL. Exhale.

Well, now that the shock has worn off, there are two ways to look at that sentence. If the glass is half full, one could say that, as it stands, the Patriots are a team on the rise with a group of young players who look settled in New England, and arguably with the best coaching staff. But there is also the scenario that the glass is half empty. The pessimist of all pessimists would be looking at the Patriots winning the Super Bowl with a frown, because now they have the last pick in every round of the seven round NFL draft on April 24 and 25. The problem with those depressed people is not that they have to lighten up, which they do, but that they have to realize that Bill Belichick is a genius, and probably has a time machine.

Last year, at the 2003 NFL draft—which was said to be weak in talent—Belichick took a first round draft pick, one of his prime safeties in Tebucky Jones as well as others, and traded them away to gain more draft picks for this year, which is said to have a very high talent rating. As of now, the Patriots have two first round picks at the 21 spot and the 32 spot, plus two second rounds, and also two fourth rounds.



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The best component of this current team, as opposed to the 2001 Super Bowl XXXVI Champion Patriots, is that the team won't be needing a huge turnover in personnel. Although they did win the Super Bowl, the 2001 Patriots had a lot of holes at the end of the season that needed to be patched. Unfortunately, some of the holes weren't patched until this past offseason, which led to the downfall of the 2002 Patriots and their failure to make the playoffs. But now that Otis Smith is gone, and we have rising stars in Eugene Wilson and Asante Samuel, a solid corner back in Tyrone Poole, the feared Rodney Harrison and the complete Ty Law, the secondary of this current team appears sturdy for at least one more year. In addition to the secondary, the line-backing corps, which includes the fan favorite Tedy Bruschi, the highly coveted Rosevelt Colvin, Roman Phifer, and Super Bowl hero Mike Vrabel, doesn't seem to need much tweaking. The biggest change in the defense might come on the defensive line, with Bobby Hamilton and Ted Washington being unrestricted free agents this year. Although it would be devastating to lose Ted Washington, who is the anchor of the Patriots' 3-4 defense, Bobby Hamilton is easily replaced with Jarvis Green and Ty Warren. So, even though it might look different next year, a defensive line with Richard Seymour, Jarvis Green, Ty Warren, Dan Klecko, and hopefully Ted Washington wouldn't be that bad.

The biggest turnover on the team will come on the offensive line. Damien Woody and Mike Compton are both unrestricted free agents, and Tom Ashworth might become a free agent too; but not to worry, starting rookie Dan Koppen, and Matt Light are staying, along with Joe Andruzzi. The biggest hole this year, as it was last year, is the running back position. The Patriots recently released Antowain Smith, the running back for the past three years, and are searching for a new full-time back. This comprises the big search for Bill Belichick and Scott Pioli this off-season. But this is where the Patriots' ten draft picks come in. There are plenty of talented runningbacks in this year's draft like Chris Perry or Kevin Jones. Also, with the uncertainty at both guard positions on the offensive line, the Patriots might make a push at some good guards, as well as a right tackle. As for wide receivers, considering the constant injuries last year, the Patriots might take some looks at fresh hands this year for some extra backup. This off-season should bring a lot of young talent to the aging Patriots, but don't expect to see that different of a team on the gridiron next year.

Boston Latin School
Argo

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Tying the Knot?

By Ariane Williams, I
Assistant News Editor

March 29 was a day of mixed blessings for the many conservative and gay-rights activists protesting outside the Massachusetts State House. After months of debate, the state legislature voted in favor of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage—and mandating civil unions.

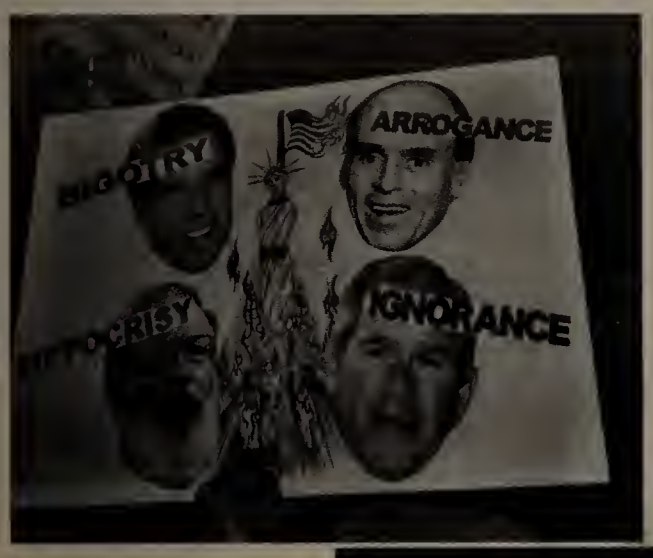
Coming as it did on the heels of the Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court ruling legalizing gay marriages last November, the decision inspired anger from civil rights workers who had been hoping that Massachusetts would be the first state to allow unobstructed marriage rights to gay couples this May 17, when the SJC ruling takes effect. Since the Legislature's decision must be affirmed in 2005 and approved by voters in 2006 before it enters the state constitution, the expected marriages will still proceed. If, however, the proposed amendment becomes law, the legality of these marriages will undoubtedly be questioned. When asked by Governor Mitt Romney, an opponent of gay marriage, to ask the SJC to stay its decision until the vote in 2006, Attorney General Tom Reilly refused and maintained the Court's verdict.

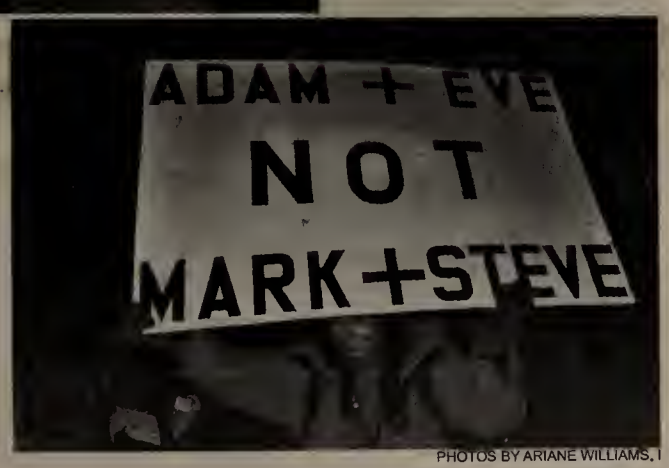
Conservatives and religious advocates who disagreed with the original SJC judgment were glad that the Legislature did not reinforce it, but were frustrated that in order to vote down gay marriage, they had to approve civil unions. Those who ascribe to President Bush's definition of marriage as "a sacred institution between a man and a woman," many of whom also strongly disagree with civil unions, were presented with what Republican Representative Vinny deMacedo called "a false choice" requiring them to "create civil unions that are entirely the same as marriage," a choice unfair to representatives and to voters.

Gay rights activists vehemently contest this assessment, calling civil unions "segregation" and claiming that "separate is inherently unequal." Reverend Joan Saniuk, Ph.D., a gay clergywoman who was outside the state house on the 29th, asserted that "It's not the same. I'm not going to give up until we have equal marriage rights...I wish they could recognize how important it is for gays and lesbians to have that recognition."

Opposing protesters cited the "slippery slope" theory, widely held among conservative politicians, that legalizing gay marriage will lead to the legalization of other currently prohibited unions: incest, polygamy, underage marriage, etc. "Their hearts are in the right place," one such demonstrator said, "but the problem is the risks of the effects of gay marriage... if they can change it once, they can change it again and again."

Continued on page 4.





PHOTOS BY ARIANE WILLIAMS, I

Clarke's Controversy

By Ariane Williams, I & Aaron Sunstein, II
Assistant News Editor & Staff Writer

In many ways, one could say that Boston Latin School's honoring Richard Clarke with the 2003 alumnus of the year award could not have come at a more opportune time. In the last several weeks, Richard Clarke has been thrust into the public spotlight because of his testimony before the committee investigating the September 11 attacks on the United States. Clarke's testimony has gotten so much attention because on Wednesday, March 24 he stated that al-Qaeda was not a "top priority" for the Bush administration in the first eight months of his presidency, the months leading up to September 11. Clarke also apologized to the victims of the September 11 attacks. "Your government failed you ... and I failed you," Clarke stated. "We tried hard, but that doesn't matter because we failed. And for that failure, I would ask ... for your understanding and for your forgiveness."

Clarke's odyssey of public service began at Boston Latin, where according to the Boston Globe, he "wowed classmates with his smooth speeches and nuanced arguments." Boston Phoenix editor Peter Kadzis said, "He was the only kid on the MBTA reading Foreign Affairs and the Congressional Record." Clarke gradually climbed the bureaucratic ladder of the executive branch. His first job was as a nuclear weapons analyst in the office of the Secretary of Defense in 1973. He served in various positions in the Reagan and Bush administrations, and was appointed to the National Security Council in 1992 under the first President Bush. He remained special adviser on counter-terrorism throughout the Clinton administration.

Clarke was effectively demoted by the George W. Bush administration, and finally resigned in early 2003. He was considered an outsider in both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, too conservative for Clinton's and regarded as a holdover by Bush's. According to the New Republic, Clinton and civil libertarians "were alarmed by his ideas for safeguarding the homeland." For example, the vote went 7-1 against Clarke at a meeting of cabinet-level officials about

Continued on page 3.



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BTU Conflict Continues

By Ashlyn Garry, III
Staff Writer

The tensions between the Boston Teachers' Union (BTU) and the City of Boston are growing, and it is felt in the air at BLS. Every student has seen the "BTUnity" signs at the "Fairness Friday" marches outside of the school. Teachers wore the "I'll be there January 13th" pins to show their support for the union protests at Mayor Menino's State of the City Address. But the real reason for the unrest remains unclear to many Boston Latin students.

Ms. Kathy Devin, a Latin teacher, is a former Executive Board Member of the Boston Teachers' Union, and one of the six current BTU Building representatives at Boston Latin. She explained that the teachers aren't protesting for violations of the current teaching contract, because they don't have a contract. It expired on August 31, 2003. Instead, the teachers are protesting for changes that can be made in the new, as of yet unreached, contract. Ms. Devin feels that "one of the major problems is teachers feel disrespected by the 1 percent pay increase [each year for three years] offered by the city." A more appropriate increase, in her opinion, would be at least 3 percent per year. This pay increase is especially necessary because the cost of living in Boston has climbed significantly since the previous contract was made effective September 1, 2000, as has the cost of health insurance. If the teachers' salaries fail to match the advance of these fees, the teachers will, essentially be working for less money. As of now, the teachers have been protesting to show their unhappiness.

But in the words of the president of the BTU, Edward Doherty, the teachers "won't be patient forever," although Ms. Devin does not have "any idea what specific actions we will take." But the fact that "the Democratic National Convention will be in Boston in summer 2004...hopefully will give Menino more incentive to settle" not only the teachers' contracts, but "many of the 32 city of Boston unions without contracts". This includes not only the teachers of Boston, but also Boston's firefighters and police officers.

Another pressing question is how the unrest between the BTU and the city will ultimately affect students, both at Boston Latin, and at other public schools in Boston. Ms. Devin feels that the it will be "positive" for the students, because "the Friday morning picketing and state of the city picketing have been part of what has been coined 'work to fairness.'" This means that teachers "will still stay and tutor students and offer other direct, uncompensated services". Teachers are willing to spend their unpaid personal time helping students directly, but not performing unnecessary formalities that do not help their students. It is important to emphasize that "Boston Latin has a long history of strong union involvement," according to Ms. Devin, who adds that "our former Head Master and current Chief Operating Officer, Michael Contompasis, was one of the key organizers of the Boston Teachers' Union strike in the 1970s." Mr. Contompasis was one of the leaders of the strike, and was directly involved with it. "Mr. Flynn was also a strong BTU advocate and BTU building representative before he became an assistant headmaster." she says.

The key to reaching a fair contract is to show that "teachers are united and determined to settle a fair and equitable contract." In short, all the teachers need is BTUnity.

News

The New SAT

By Liz Finlayson, III & Trude Raizen, II
Contributing Writer & Assistant News Editor

Since 1926, the SAT has been a constant in the college application process, but the face and purpose of the SAT as we know it are about to change dramatically. In the past, the SAT has been considered an aptitude test to determine students' basic math, verbal, and grammatical skills consisting of analogies, quantitative comparisons and long reading comprehension passages. However, the new test, which will debut in March of 2005, barely resembles the traditional SAT. This makeover was brought on when in 2001 the Universities of California decided to stop requiring applicants to take the SATs.

The new test is supposedly coordinated with the current high school curriculum spanning three years of high school math, English and writing. The Verbal section will morph into the Critical Reading section with the omission of the famed verbal analogies, which will be replaced by shorter reading comprehension passages. The Math section will no longer feature Quantitative Comparison questions, and will have new Algebra II questions designed to better fit high school curricula. There is also a whole new section devoted to writing. In this section of the test, similar to the SAT II: Writing exam, students will be asked to answer grammar and usage questions and complete a full timed essay about an opinion statement. This new section will also raise the highest possible grade to a 2400 from the traditional 1600.

The changes to the SAT are numerous and radical, but why are they being implemented? According to the College Entrance Examination Board, the organization that produces the SAT, the changes are well founded: the test simply did not match up to what students were studying in school. According to the College Board's website, "The new SAT will improve the alignment of the test with current curriculum and institutional practices in high school and college." Instead of making studying for the SAT a separate entity from the classes in schools, the College Board believes these changes will make the test more unified with the school curriculum. In other words, the new SAT will be harder to prepare for independently with programs such as Kaplan and the Summit Educational Group, but will presumably be covered adequately in regular classes.

Some worry that the new SAT will be open to a higher incidence of score discrepancies. The current SAT is simply a test of general math and vocabulary skills. However, the new SAT is turning into a test that examines students based on what they learn in school. Students who attend academically rigorous schools, like Boston Latin School, have the upper hand in scoring well on the test, but this new method of testing leaves others in the dust. The Educational Testing Service, a group that the College Board pays to write SAT questions, has decided to deal with this issue by eliminating excerpts from novels commonly read in every extensive English class. Books like *Animal Farm* and *Catch-22* (both read at Boston Latin) will no longer be featured in the fictional literature section of the test. They feel that the reading comprehension questions should be new to every student and that the students who come from strong academic backgrounds should not have an advantage due to the fact that they attend more rigorous schools.

Another concern is the integration of a subjective item into the main SAT. The essay piece of the writing section is the only part of the test not scored by a machine.

It remains to be seen if the new SAT will make life easier or more difficult for the average student. In an age where many schools are reducing the importance of SATs in the admissions process, the College Board claims that "the new SAT will help colleges make better admissions and placement decisions."

Attention, les étudiants de français!

The Boston Latin School is sponsoring a trip to France from June 23 to July 19. All French students are welcome to participate. Under the guidance of Ms. Brun, students will be visiting Paris and Strasbourg, touring such famous places as the Eiffel Tower, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Montmartre, Versailles, the Museum of Louvre, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. At the end of the trip, there will be an opportunity to spend a day in Germany. Students will also attend school in French. It is a great opportunity, and Ms. Brun encourages prospective participants to see her for more details. She is available in room 035 every day after school.

Support the Trip to France!

Buy Raffle Tickets!

1st prize: Red Sox Tickets (3rd base line)
2nd prize: DVD player
3rd prize: American Express Gift Card

ask the argo

Q: As a powerful and widely read metropolitan publication, does the *Argo* intend to sway the upcoming election by endorsing a candidate and/or political party?
A: It is our journalistic responsibility to remain evenhanded and unbiased.*
Q: Where are the Balkans?
A: Some say the Balkans are in Europe. Others think they are mystical lands, spirited away long ago to an ethereal continent in the sky. We at the *Argo*, however, generally agree that there is a little bit of the Balkans are inside each and every one of us. Except for Bora, who has a lot in her.
Q: Are you God?
A: We've been asked that many times. We don't think so. But then again, we create something from nothing in five days, so maybe we're, like, SuperGod.
Q: Are you a single entity, or a mass of individual beings welded into one enormous, tyrannical consciousness, like the Borg?
A: At *Argo*, we like to believe that each and every person contributes their own unique talents and perspective. We then take that uniqueness and destroy it utterly for the good of the Collective.

*Sharpton for President

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Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

1996 Third Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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Food Review: Thornton's Fenway Grille

By Elizabeth Moniz, II
Contributing Writer

Thornton's Fenway Grille
100 Peterborough Street
Boston, Ma.
617-421-0104
Transportation: Green Line, Kenmore
Cuisine Type: American
Ambiance: 8/10
Cleanliness: 7/10
Service: 10/10
Quality: 8/10
Value: 8/10

Thornton's Fenway Grille is located just blocks away from Fenway Park in a residential area spotted with numerous other odd and interesting restaurants. It is the perfect place to grab a bite to eat before a game; if you don't have tickets, you can always watch it at Thornton's. The restaurant is characteristically Bostonian and the televisions are always tuned to Red Sox games during the season. If you would rather not eat amongst avid, cheering Sox fans and prefer more of an intimate scene, there is a second dining room decorated with eclectic art by independent Bostonian artists. In keeping with the Boston theme, the restaurant also has numerous pictures of Ted Williams on the walls. Both rooms are well lit and have huge windows, letting in all of the sunlight in the afternoon. Outdoor seating is also available, weather permitting, and is generally preferred by customers.

Of the numerous times I have been to Thornton's, I have never once had an incompetent server. The serving team consists of young, college-aged men and women, who are always on their toes and ready to assist patrons. Not only are the servers consistently reliable, but they are also very amiable, ready to make recommendations or even start a conversation with affable patrons. Even on their busiest nights—game nights—the wait staff is cool, calm, collected.

The Thornton's menu is huge and has an extensive variety of choices. There is always something on the menu to please everyone. The appetizers include the classic buffalo fingers and nachos as well as items less commonly found, such as buffalo shrimp. Entrée choices include everything from pasta dishes to steaks and beyond. The chicken and broccoli pasta features sautéed chicken breast and broccoli over penne pasta tossed in a creamy Parmesan sauce. It is warm and flavorful (great for a blustery, cold New England night). The chicken is tender and the broccoli is fresh and delicious. This meal is served in a huge portion and includes a house salad, all for $12.95, well worth the price considering the overly generous portion size. Other entrees include baby back ribs; Wednesday night is all-you-can-eat-ribs night from 5pm-12am, for $11.95

For something a little lighter, the menu has a section of light and vegetarian-friendly meals. The baked Brie offers a plate of warm Brie cheese and French bread served with apples, pears, grapes, and pineapple. The Brie is gooey and delicious and the fruits are juicy and fresh.

Large salads are also available. The Back Bay salad is an enormous plate of fresh vegetables and penne pasta on a bed of lettuce tossed in a vinaigrette dressing. This $7.95-salad is huge and worth the price. However "dressing on the side" might be a good request, for too much vinaigrette overpowers the flavors of all of the fresh veggies.





PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH MONIZ, II

The real reason to go to Thornton's, however, is to gorge yourself on one of their awesome burgers. The burger menu is huge and includes all sorts of masterpieces. The Smoke House burger is topped with a slice of Canadian bacon, cheddar cheese, and barbeque sauce, for $7.45. The Melt Down is a Cajun-infused burger topped with salsa, jalapeno peppers, and cheddar cheese, also for $7.45. For just a plain hamburger, order the Honeymoon, for $5.95. All burgers are served on a fresh bulkie roll with tomatoes, red onions, and lettuce for toppings. The meat is cooked to perfection, according to your desired doneness, and the rolls aren't so big that they consume the meat.

There are also many chicken sandwiches available. The Two Jakes chicken sandwich is chicken topped with bacon, cheddar cheese, and Monterey Jack cheese, also served on a bulkie roll with tomatoes, red onions, and lettuce for $7.95. The chicken itself is not dry, but it can be on the sandwiches. However, the Two Jakes sandwich could use an extra kick of flavor, perhaps barbeque sauce. For true Wolfpack fans, there's the Wolf, a breast of Buffalo-style chicken served on a bulkie roll with tomatoes, red onions, and lettuce, with blue cheese dressing on the side to top it off, at the price of $7.95. Be careful with this one, it's insanely spicy! There are also sandwiches with no meat at Thornton's. The Santa Fe sandwich has roasted red peppers and grilled tomatoes marinated in olive oil and fresh basil, served on French bread and topped with melted Mozzarella cheese, for $6.95. This sandwich might sound objectionable because of the olive oil, but it is not at all greasy or sloppy and is extremely flavorful.

All burgers and sandwiches at Thornton's are served with a choice of potato, vegetable, or French fries. The fries are absolutely delectable and highly recommended. Crispy and seasoned on the outside, hot and fluffy on the inside, they are served plentifully with the sandwiches. The delicious and creative sandwiches and burgers at Thornton's are certainly worth the price, especially with a hefty pile of French fries.

Even the desserts at Thornton's are tasty. They have the classic cheesecake, with your choice of fruit or chocolate syrup drizzled on top, but the "Ice Cream Treats" are the highlight. These treats are concoctions of ice cream and all sorts of flavors, blended together and topped with whipped cream. The Chocolate Monkey is chocolate ice cream and bananas blended to a thick, creamy consistency, for $4.25, well worth it. The Chunky Monkey is the bolder version of the Chocolate Monkey, enhanced with a third flavor, peanut butter, also for $4.25. A more mild treat is the Frappucino (that name sounds familiar...), freshly brewed coffee and coffee and vanilla ice cream blended together for $3.95.

To add yet another layer to the excellence of Thornton's, let it be known that the glasses and cutlery are pristine, the bathrooms are clean, and there are no greasy handprints on the large windows. It is a seemingly spotless place.

If you are looking for a satisfying, hearty meal, Thornton's is the place to go. It is well within the budget of penny-saving students. Just a ten-minute walk from Boston Latin, it's a great place to go on a Friday afternoon. Expect to come home with a doggie bag (or two) and a full belly. As fun as hot dogs at Fenway may be, Thornton's Fenway Grille is certainly a worthwhile alternative.

Controversy over Clarke Continues

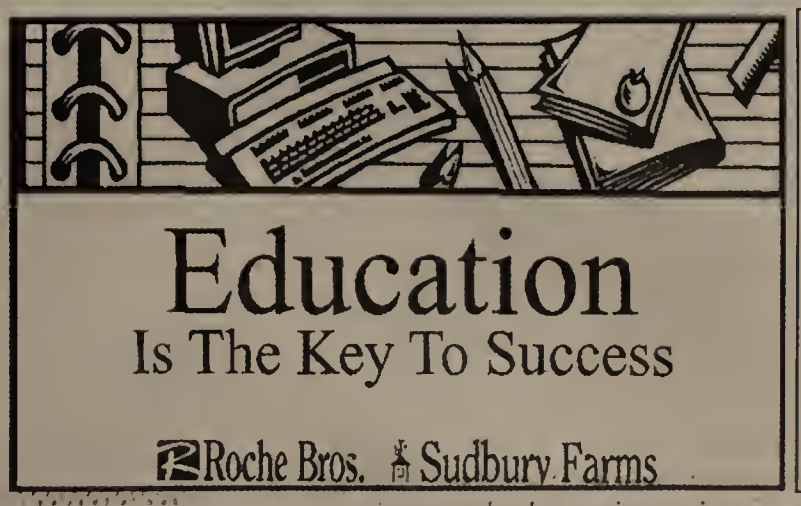
Continued from page 1.

whether to attack Osama bin Laden after the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen, an attack orchestrated by al-Qaeda. In the Bush administration, Clarke "felt uncomfortable with the conservatives brought in by George W. Bush" and, in general, "the White House team is not hospitable to outsiders," according to Robert Novak of CNN's Crossfire and the Chicago Sun-Times.

But why is Clarke's testimony for the 9/11 commission considered so important? For one thing, Clarke is certainly an expert. In fact, he was best known in Washington for being "one of the most skilled manipulators ever of national security bureaucracy," says Novak. Many also believe that Clarke's testimony could be an important factor in this year's presidential elections. Three-fifths of those surveyed in a poll by the Los Angeles Times agreed with Clarke's contention that Bush has placed a higher priority on Iraq than on combating terrorism and surveys for the first time have found Kerry leading Bush in the polls. Clarke himself avowed before the commission that he would not accept a position with the Kerry administration. The Bush administration, however, has pointed out that the convenient timing of the publication of Clarke's book, *Against All Enemies,* coincided with his appearance before the panel as evidence that his testimony is politically tinged. "I'm trying hard to make this not a partisan thing, but a discussion of how we stop terrorism from happening in the future, keep this on a policy issue," Clarke said.

Critics have argued that through his apology to the families of September 11 victims, Clarke created the impression that there were policy options available to the president that would have prevented the attacks, but Clarke himself denied that they could have been. "Assuming that the recommendations that you made on January 25 of 2001...including aid to the Northern Alliance... assuming that there had been more Predator reconnaissance missions, assuming that had all been adopted...on January 26, is there any chance that it would have prevented 9/11?" Slade Gorton, a member of the commission, asked. "No", responded Clarke. Some, like General Anthony Zinni, former head of U.S. Central Command, believe that Richard Clarke's testimony represents an "overly simplistic" perspective.

Boston Latin School Facing History students had a chance to watch a bureaucrat in action during the field trip to Washington, D.C. when they heard Richard Clarke speak. Clarke was also a featured speaker at the Alumni Gala last fall, where he criticized United States involvement in Iraq. With his books flying off the rack and White House officials jumping to the defense of the president, it is clear that it will be a long time until any kind of a consensus is reached. Regardless of how his battle with the Bush administration pans out, Richard Clarke serves as a prime example of an alumnus who has truly ascended the *cursus honorum*.



Redaction

In Issue III of the *Argo*, an addendum to an article by Trish Morris (I) regarding the 2003-2004 Facing History and Ourselves trip to the Hague, written ex post facto by another member of the *Argo* staff, contained content that was later deemed inappropriate and misrepresentative by both those involved and the *Argo* editorial board. The *Argo* apologizes for this editorial oversight and hereby redacts the addition.

BLS.org Pushes Limits of Utility

By Aaron Sunstein, II
Staff Writer

The new Boston Latin School Web site has been up and running since the start of school in September, but eight months later it remains a mystery to many students, parents and teachers. There are numerous features on the BLS Web site to explore that have appeared gradually since the start of the school year. The guidance department has been extraordinarily committed to the site, frequently posting updated announcements and information about scholarships, summer opportunities, standardized testing, college search, and Saturday Success School. Individual departments also have their own sites, but there is still much inconsistency in their features. The Classics department site, for example, includes updated course descriptions of the new Latin electives as well as many Latin texts that can be printed out for use in classes. On the other hand, the Arts department page contains practically nothing. Many teachers have also posted their own personal web pages on the server presenting student work, course requirements and class handouts. Other useful pages newly added to the site include the elective sheets for upperclassmen and information about purchasing textbooks.

The school site has also been used to replace materials that were previously printed. The daily bulletin is now posted exclusively on the BLS Web site, a practice which began last school year due to budgetary problems and the resulting paper shortage. The Web site has also supplanted the parent newsletter, which featured a monthly calendar of events including parent organization meetings, the ends of marking terms, etc. The transition, however, has not been a completely smooth one. Many parents were unaware of the curriculum nights that were held on the evenings of March 8 and March 16 this year, and teachers have remarked on the low attendance at this year's open house. These are both events now listed only on the Web site. Others are concerned that not printing the parent newsletter leaves in the dark those without web access or the time to regularly check the Web site. In the school itself, the switch to the site has been smoother. It appears from a survey of students that the reading of the bulletin has not decreased measurably since the electronic edition was introduced. The regular broadcasts by BLS TV have also become popular in many homerooms.



SCREENSHOT BY KE ZHANG, III

For some events the site is updated regularly. Many areas, however, show signs of neglect. For instance, the Student Council page says that Battle of the Bands is scheduled for April 1 when in fact it has been rescheduled for April 8, and many buttons do not lead to a completed page. On the other hand, the home page has been updated frequently. It often lists upcoming sports games, Arts events and Workshops. Another problem with the Web site is that it is not always easy to figure out just where to find information. Some events are listed on the home page, while others are only listed in the bulletin or in the guidance area of the site. A check in the calendar area of the Web site, a logical place to list events, reveals that the music nights, drama club performances, and the date that elective sheets are due are not listed. In fact, the only events listed for the month of April are days off—school vacation and Good Friday. The forums, available to all members of the Latin School community, have thus far been embraced solely by the sixies. There are only 1116 registered members in the forums so far.

Unfortunately, the slow download times for the various pages on the Web site mean that trying to use the site is often a frustrating experience. On the T1 connection at Latin School, it took between 6 and 10 seconds to fully display the site, while on dial-up connections it can take up to several minutes. In comparison, the Web sites of Burke High, Latin Academy and Beverly High take only one second. According to Internet experts, download time is long because the BLS Web site contains close to 5000 lines of HTML code, an amount not necessary for the features it provides. They say that the site content is generated by Macromedia ColdFusion technology, now largely considered antiquated because a new system called PHP has largely supplanted it for web sites.

With luck, many of the problems in the Web site are only temporary and will be resolved in time. It is expected that the adoption of a major new resource by such a large community takes quite some time. With increased awareness and use, the Web site will only improve.

Gay Marriage in Mass. Draws Controversy

Continued from page 1.

The conflict has been reduced to a face-off between gay marriage and civil unions. Although most politicians assert that they are essentially identical and do not confer the "second-class status" gay rights groups fear, civil unions lack many of the benefits of marriage: they would not be recognized in any other states except Vermont, whose legislature originally coined the term, and participants in civil unions do not enjoy as many tax breaks or legal benefits as married couples.

If gay marriages do become legal in Massachusetts, they will still not be available to residents of the 38 states where such marriages are specifically banned by—the federal Defense of Marriage Act specifies that no state is obligated to recognize a gay union performed in another state. And it is entirely possible that couples from other states will be denied the right to wed in Massachusetts altogether, under a new application of a 1913 law originally designed to prevent interracial marriages by only granting licenses to people eligible for marriage in their own state of residence. Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts politician and the expected Democratic nominee for the 2004 presidential election, has come out in favor of civil unions, but shied away from endorsing outright marriages. This decision by his home state's Supreme Court may prove to be a problem for Kerry, already considered too liberal by some of the more right-leaning elements of his party.

Their disappointment notwithstanding, gay advocacy groups are relieved that civil unions, at least, are practically assured to the gay and lesbian couples of Massachusetts. Those on the street in front of the courthouse were gratified that the issue was even being discussed in the public's eye. Bruce Cramer, an openly gay librarian at Brookline High who brought the school's Gay Straight Alliance to one of the votes, expressed this sentiment: "I'm...proud of the fact that as a society we've come this far where high school students can come to rallies." Referring to religious fundamentalists, Cramer said, "I'm extremely proud of [the students'] ability to face the bigots and the awful messages sent by some of the religious fanatics."

The strong religious contingent that turned out to contest the SJC ruling cited the Bible and other spiritual texts. "Basically I'm here because I'm a believer in the word of Jesus and in the word of God when he said sodomy is a sin," declared one protester. Others relied on secular sources: "Since eternity, Webster's Dictionary has defined marriage as between a man and a woman and now they're going to change it."

At this point, it is far from clear whether the Massachusetts Constitution will end up with an amendment banning gay marriage. Whatever happens, emotions on both sides will remain high as advocates struggle to convey their deeply held beliefs and drum up public support for their positions.



BY ARIANE WILLIAMS, I

FORUM

Affirmative Action?

PRO



BY ERIN DURKIN, I

CON

By Ruthzee Louijeune, I
Staff Writer

May 17 will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark court decision of Brown vs. Board of Education. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and therefore violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens "equal protection under the law." Today, we are still trying to ensure that everyone is given this equal opportunity.

The sad truth is that we still see this separatism today—in our under-funded school systems, in our neighborhoods, in our jobs. The list goes on. It would be nice to believe that we live in a society in which affirmative action is totally unnecessary, in which issues such as the achievement gap, racism, and prejudice are nonexistent. But it is time for a reality check—we are nowhere near this point. To deny and ignore this fact would be naïve. Where are most "minorities" educated? In public schools, the same ones that are sending less than 20 percent of their students to accredited four-year colleges or universities. Instead of facing this grim reality and doing something to improve the schools which the underprivileged are forced to attend, we create shoddy vocational schools for them so that they can learn a trade and find work after they graduate from high school. Many of these students are never given the option of college, and therefore have no way of improving their situations.

Some may argue that the only way to create a color-blind society is to have color-blind policies. But to have these policies today would only perpetuate the social injustices and inequities that exist. Color-blind college admissions favor white students because of their earlier statistically proven educational advantages. Take time to think: the end of segregation is not even fifty years old. Do you believe that all the ancient prejudices and years of racism have just disappeared? A program like affirmative action helps to heal the problems that society created. According to the Social Psychology Network, without affirmative action the percentage of black students at many selective schools would drop to only two percent of the student body. Look at these numbers and tell yourself nothing is wrong. Opponents of affirmative action would like to call this type of social engineering "reverse discrimination," but this term could only be applied if affirmative action were being used to purposely put a particular group at a disadvantage, and this is not happening. The most effective way to rid society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does. With a program like affirmative action in place, students of color who are at a disadvantage know that college is not a useless dream. Sometimes we must accept things that are not perfect. And for those who think that affirmative action should be based on economic status and not race, according to the Census Bureau (2000), 11.5 percent of the population is poor, and 93 percent of those classified as poor are people of color. Racial discrimination plays a role in these statistics one way or another.

You may be reading this and saying, "She's biased because she's black." If I appear to be playing favorites, it is because I am angry that we are still dealing with the same racial problems that existed in 1954. How can Sandra Day O'Connor say that in 25 years, everything will be "A-okay" and discrimination will no longer exist? Affirmative action is not a problem-free system, but it is working. Until some genius has a better idea for solving these social woes, or until America makes a valiant effort to attack racial problems at their roots, I will have to support it. I will be the first to applaud and rejoice when we can all live in a race-free world and see the end of affirmative action, but looking at our country today, I don't believe that this will happen any time soon.

By the way, George W. Bush, who does not support affirmative action, graduated from Phillips Academy with a "C" average, but somehow ended up at Yale College. What was that about unfair advantages and discrimination, Mr. President?

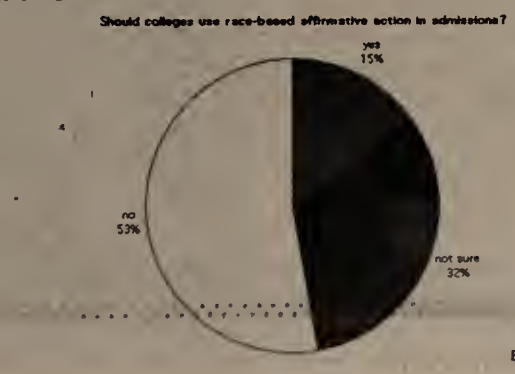
By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

If there is one thing that America should have learned from the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, it is that discrimination on the basis of skin color is unfair—and morally wrong. Affirmative action was created to remedy the hundreds of years of institutional discrimination against women and ethnic minorities. But society has changed a great deal since the 1960s, and affirmative action is no longer necessary. What began as an instrument to bring about positive social change has become degrading and counterproductive.

Whether it is in the context of college admissions, employment or government contracts, using someone's "race" as a proxy for his life experience is wrong. Affirmative action advocates often contend that the process will result in a more "diverse" environment. But checking off a box next to the word "black," "Hispanic," (or for that matter, "white") does not guarantee anything about what someone will be able to offer to his or her fellow students. This concept may seem obvious, but the fact that some colleges employ systems that assign points simply on the basis of an applicant's skin color would seem to indicate that one's "race" makes one more deserving of a spot—which goes against the basic principles of equality. This is not to deny that, statistically, minority students face more economic and social hurdles on their way to an education. Of course, if this is the case, their economic and social experiences should be evaluated along with their achievements. But to assume that one is poor or has encountered greater-than-normal adversity in his or her educational career simply on account of his or her "race" is wrong. As almost everyone learns in kindergarten, people come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Just because an individual is of a certain color does not mean that he or she needs a special boost in order to succeed.

Affirmative action does not necessarily result in the fabled "reverse discrimination" to which many conservatives are fond of referring when discussing the subject. The act of admitting a black student to college does not automatically discriminate against a white student. But in a flawed system where there is an inherent value in the amount of melanin in one's skin, there are those who may be passed over, despite better qualifications, in favor of those with a certain desirable skin tone. This is not to say that every college applicant should be judged by the same set of standards--they shouldn't be. Not everyone has had the advantage of private tutors, prep courses, and extra help from parents. One score coming from an urban high school may mean something quite different than the same score coming from a wealthy suburban high school. That is why students should be judged comprehensively on how well they have performed in their situation. That way, applicants who have demonstrated that they are able to meet challenges will be selected, and will be able to succeed in college.

In short, continuing the policy of affirmative action is a band-aid solution that will not heal the socioeconomic discrepancies and racism still present in society. The problems need to be attacked at their roots—by cultural and offical emphasis on equality in public education so that all students, regardless of race, background, or income bracket, will have the same chance to earn admission to top colleges. Only then will there exist a society in which individuals are judged on the content of their character and not the color of their skin.



BY KE ZHANG, III

Forum Question

Should Colleges Practice Race-Based Affirmative Action?



"No, because it's not fair to base it solely on race. There are many other factors that affect the college decision, like economic and social conditions."
—Nivdarla Anselme, I



"Only in some cases, because diversity is important, but you don't want to cheat people of what they earned."
—Billy Doogan, II



"No, because I don't think admission should be based on race. It depends on the capability of the individual, not on race."
—Kim Pham, III



"Yes, because things were never set up for our benefit in the first place. And things still aren't set up to our benefit. It's still harder for someone black to succeed."
—Jesse Winfrey, IV



"No, because it's unfair to give an advantage because of the color of someone's skin. It should be based on their accomplishments and grades."
—Brian Cody, V



"No. I don't think it should be based on race."
—Chris Monestine, VI

PHOTOS BY FRANKLINE HO, II

Southern Inhospitality

Editorials written by:
Frankline Ho, II
Kathryn McDonald, I
Elizabeth Sculley, II

On February 5, an armed rebellion led by Guy Phillipe broke out against Haiti's President Bertrand Aristide. Shortly after violence erupted in the country, Aristide supporters, mainly in Port-Au-Prince, began to flee in fear for their lives. These refugees should be able to count on finding sanctuary in the United States.

Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "... everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." According to the 1951 United Nations' Refugee Convention, a country must not repatriate, or return immigrants to their homes, if their lives are in danger. Yet President Bush has stated that the United States will repatriate any Haitians caught fleeing their country. Contrary to a common rumor that has been circulating among Haitians, the US government is not sending the refugees to Guatanamo Bay to be held with terrorists captured in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Yet, it is upholding its traditional policy towards refugees--sending them back to their home country. On February 25, a boat "hijacked" by 21 Haitians was stopped by the Coast Guard seven miles outside Miami and sent back to Haiti; on February 26, the US Coast Guard stopped and sent back two boats carrying 140 refugees. Boats filled with desperate refugees continue to be turned around.

The issue of immigration has brought the United States and France, two countries that previously disagreed harshly about the "war on terrorism," closer together. France, the former colonial power of Haiti, has accepted 80,000 immigrants since Aristide's rise to power in 1994. Yet, France, like the United States, is currently closing its doors to Haitian immigration because as Regis Debray, leader of a French panel on Relations in Haiti, so eloquently put it



COURTESY OF WEHAITIANS.COM

in a January statement, "...[there are] few dividends for us if we give more than a half-hearted effort, and not much to lose if we get out of there for once and for all. No petrol, no uranium... an AIDS epidemic and thousands of boat people." After the February rebellion, France followed the United States' lead and stopped accepting refugees, opting instead to send humanitarian aid and supplies into Haiti.

Many argue that the Unites States is simply unable to support refugees, that there are no resources or funds on which they can live, and that the government should think of its own citizens first before accepting desperate people from other countries. However, the only country that *is* accepting refugees from Haiti is Jamaica, a much poorer nation with fewer natural resources than either France or the United States. If Jamaica can find a way to provide for Haitians fleeing the chaos in their homeland, then so can America, the richest nation on earth.

In addition to its simple humanitarian obligations, the United States should accept Haitian refugees in order to correct double standards in its immigration policy. As soon as Cubans fleeing Fidel Castro's repressive communist regime set foot on U.S. territory, they are given the opportunity to remain in the country while applying for political asylum. Haitians, on the other hand, are automatically repatriated. In the past, it was argued that Cubans were fleeing Communist repression, while Haitians were simply economic refugees. Given the current political chaos in Haiti, this argument no longer holds water. The United States should abandon its discriminatory policy and allow Haitians the same opportunity as Cubans to remain in this country and avoid mistreatment because of their political views.

The United States' turning away of these boats of refugees is all too reminiscent of the tragedy of the *SS St. Louis*. During World War II, the Cuba-bound vessel *St. Louis,* carrying 250 Jewish refugees, was at the last minute refused permission to dock by the Cuban government. The ship's passengers appealed to the United States for refuge, but the U.S. refused to take them. The passengers were forced to return to Germany, and the majority of them died in the Holocaust. The United States should have learned from its mistake in 1939 instead of ignoring this past. The current situation in Haiti can hardly be compared to the atrocity of the Holocaust, but the principles involved are the same. When human beings face death and danger in their homeland, the nations of the world should do everything possible to offer them refuge. As Marlene Bastien of the Haitian Women of Miami says, "... anyone who would send anyone back is cold, heartless, and with no humanity."

Money Money Money

Gross domestic product, projected national debt, and federal budget deficit—these are words that no one really cares about or understands. Yet, they give us all a headache bigger than we'd have if we found out Starbucks was closed for renovation after one of those infamous all-nighters. Although it is one of the most confusing issues that we as citizens are expected to understand, it's time we buckle down, take another swig of that coffee, and try our best to puzzle through it, because it is an issue that will affect us for generations to come.

For most of the last century, there has been a federal budget deficit in the United States. What does that mean? Basically, our country is spending more money than the government is taking in as revenue. A *lot* more money. In other words, our country is like a family taking out loans every year to finance cars and vacations while ignoring the fact that they already have a huge mortgage to pay off. And it seems to be getting worse every year. Although the White House initially projected a $350 billion deficit for this year, the deficit ended up amounting to more than $500 billion. That number is only expected to increase next year, and there is no end in sight.

Currently, U.S. spending has been focusing on two departments, the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services. Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare get more expensive every year. The recently passed Medicare prescription drug coverage bill is projected to add billions to that program's cost. Military spending continues to grow, as the United States funds an occupation in Iraq and fights an ongoing war on terrorism. This, in addition to drops in revenue due to economic hard times, has caused the surplus we enjoyed in the 1990s to morph into a huge deficit. The logical response to this spiraling debt might be to cut spending, to do whatever is necessary to balance the books before the problem spirals out of control. Instead, President Bush has held fast to his trillion-dollar tax cuts, and Congress has continued to load up its budgets with pork barrel projects, granting hundreds of thousands of dollars for such crucial projects as the Johnny Appleseed Heritage Center in Ohio, the development of the "World Food Prize" in Des Moines, and fruit fly research in Montpellier, France. If these policies are allowed to continue, the projected deficits for 2005 to 2009 are $1.6 *trillion*.

In ten years, the baby boom generation will begin to retire and collect its Social Security money, which will place a further drain on the nation's resources. Normally, this wouldn't be an issue because Social Security is supposed to be funded by a separate trust fund untouched by other government spending. Yet Congress hasn't quite been playing by the rules. During this administration, Congress has given the Treasury Department authority to use the Social Security Trust Fund like a loan, taking money from the supposedly untouchable trust fund and using it to pay for a myriad of unrelated projects, with hollow promises to pay it back eventually. This irresponsible "borrowing" will cause the deficit to grow that much larger, making it even more difficult to cover the budget.

So how does this relate to *us*? After the retirement of the baby boom generation, we teenagers and children of today (who will then be a part of the working class) will be responsible for aiding in the recovery of the nation's economy. Basically, we will be responsible for all the spending that is occurring at this moment, despite the fact that most of us haven't even yet reached voting age. The current problems being created without our input lie in wait to make our lives horrible in the future. What, then, *is* there to do? What can we do to defend ourselves from this inevitable financial drain on our resources?

We're moving to Canada.

Extra Credit

Being a teacher is tough. Being a teacher in a Boston Public School is tougher. No teachers in the state face a more challenging day than teachers going to teach each day in city schools. With these challenges come, at least one would like to hope, rewards. The Boston Teachers Union is a positive entity working to advocate for arguably the hardest working group of city employees. It is self-evident that teachers deserve to go to work with not only a contract, but with



a contract that will allow them job security and a sufficient salary.

In today's capitalist market economy, unions are essential. One worker, be he a teacher, police officer, garbage collector or construction worker, has little or no clout when dealing with administrative powers. Yet, when a group joins together, they have infinitely more bargaining power and must be taken seriously by the powers that be. Unions are oftentimes portrayed as being self-serving and greedy. With the Teachers' Union this is simply not the case. The Boston teachers really did not ask for anything extraordinary in their contract negotiations. They asked for a 9.75 percent pay raise over three years, which is chump change when looking at the steady rise in the cost of living in Boston. They asked that there be a decrease in class sizes by one seat across the board or that more seats be made available in alternative education centers such as the Barron Center. This is only realistic; a smaller student-to-teacher ratio would better facilitate learning, especially in younger grades where children are learning vital skills such as how to read. The goal of administrators, teachers, parents, and of course the city ought to be to improve the quality of education in city schools. Lobbying for smaller class sizes is not indulging a greedy desire, but rather attempting to improve education.

The contract that was recently ratified (and robbed students of a day off) seems satisfactory. It gives teachers an 8.5 percent raise over three years, and does create new seats in alternative education programs. Additionally, the contract gives teachers bonuses for tenure. What really proves that the BTU is aimed at providing quality education in city schools is that they agreed to cede to Superintendent Payzant the power to fill 50 percent of the vacancies at "underperforming" schools. In all, the BTU gave far more ground at the bargaining table than did the City of Boston. The union was willing to concede so as to guarantee the education of students.

It is rather sad that the BTU had to threaten a strike to get the City of Boston to sit down and seriously try to come up with a contract agreement. Likewise, it is pitiful that as of March 11, 2004—before the teachers' contract was ratified—the city and Mayor Menino had not yet resolved 29 collective bargaining agreements. Firefighters are working without a contract. Teachers were working without a contract. The blame cannot be put on the teachers when 29 other unions are also without contracts. Is every city worker simply too greedy? This seems hard to believe. Rather, the city is to blame. In July, Menino and Boston will host the Democratic National Convention. They will be boasting of a city that is pro-union and for the "working man", yet most of these "working men" are working without contracts or are forced to threaten a strike to be taken seriously. Now, isn't that ironic?

Sara Awad

Dispelling the Myth of Israel

In an op-ed in Issue V of the *Argo* (No Apologies, No Guilt), Sharon Silverman blatantly accuses Palestinians of being troublemakers, rejects their right to their own land, and defends the harsh, oppressive measures taken by the Israelis against Palestinian civilians.

Pathetically, to defend Israel's presence in Palestine, Silverman has to refer back to Judaism and turn the matter into a religious dispute – a common ploy used to shift debate away from historical facts. Silverman needs to differentiate between Judaism and Zionism and understand that Judaism is a religion that has existed in the Holy Land for thousands of years, while Zionism is a racist political movement that began in the 19th century and calls for the establishment of a state for Jews *only* in the land of Palestine. It is a shame that Silverman should compare one of the great religions of the world to a political movement with such racist objectives, especially when the two have no connection. There are Jewish organizations and Rabbis worldwide who deny Israel's right to exist. For example, Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss, spokesman for Neturei Karta International, claims that "we are declaring that the Israeli state, contrary to its absurd claims, is not representative of the Jewish people. In fact, its denial of our faith and its brutalization of the Palestinian people, renders it antithetical to Judaism." Besides, if the argument is that Palestine belonged to the Jews for millions of years, as Silverman says, then why did the early Zionists consider establishing their Jewish state in Uganda, Canada, Australia, Iraq, Libya, and even Texas? If the Zionists were just trying to reclaim what was theirs, then why did they occupy Egypt's Sinai, Syria's Golan Heights *and* southern Lebanon? It is actually rather funny that Silverman should accuse the Arabs of desiring a "*Judenrein* Middle East" when history shows us that the three major religions of the world, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, have lived in the tiny region for centuries, side-by-side, and in complete peace and harmony – that is, until the rise of Zionism. Silverman needs to realize that the conflict in the Holy Land is not a matter of Palestinians against Jews, but a matter of Palestinians against Zionists who are oppressing them and trying to eradicate them, as clearly indicated by Uzi Cohen, a deputy in the Knesset who has proposed massive ethnic cleansing of non-Jews in the country as a final solution to the Palestinian Israeli conflict.

Silverman defends Israel's right to exist because Britain issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, but doesn't she realize that she is legitimizing the existence of Israel with a declaration made by a colonial power? Besides, this declaration supported a Jewish homeland, "...it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine." The reality behind the Balfour Declaration is that during the early 1900s, many Jews were immigrating to Britain. As nationalism grew during World War I, many British politicians wanted an alternative destination for the influx of unwanted central and eastern European Jewish immigrants. The Conservative press depicted Jews as unpatriotic, cowardly, and even pro-German. Silverman really ought to be offended by a declaration whose aim was to take the "Jewish problem" somewhere else.

Silverman also denies the legitimacy and existence of Arabs in Palestine even though the founding fathers of Zionism recognized it. For example, Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Minister of Defense during the 1967 war, was quoted in *Ha'aretz*, a prominent *Israeli* newspaper, as saying, "We came to this country which was already populated by Arabs...There is not one place built in this country that did not have a former Arab population." In almost every Palestinian village that the Zionists attacked, they committed massacres and horrendous acts of rape, murder and torture, causing the mass exodus of Palestinians into neighboring Arab countries. These refugees fled to safety with the intent of returning to their homes, a right guaranteed to all refugees by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Following their expulsion in 1948, the Right of Return was specifically applied to the Palestinians in United Nations Resolution 194, which demands that the "refugees wishing to return to their homes" should be allowed to do so. To this day, however, the Zionists deny Palestinians the Right of Return while they grant automatic citizenship to anyone, regardless of where he is from, who can trace his lineage to be Jewish as far back as the third generation. As for the Palestinians who stayed in their homes, the Zionists have forced them into ghettos (a word which, ironically, was first used to describe the sections of European cities to which Jews were restricted) and deny them easy access to water, food, medical care, education and work.



COURTESY OF ALJAZEERA.COM

PALESTINEAN GIRLS GOING TO SCHOOL.

Israel's use of genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians began upon the "establishment" of the racist state of Israel and continues to this day by the erection of the apartheid wall, which is comparable to the methods used by the Nazis in their occupation of Eastern Europe. People recognized the acts of immorality committed then but still permit them and refuse to recognize them when the effect is segregating the Palestinians. And yet, Silverman wants to argue that the media are biased towards the Palestinians! According to a survey that focused on the Israeli-Palestinian coverage from September 29, 2000 to the end of January, 2001, the articles in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, the two most influential papers in the United States, were 81 percent pro-Israeli, seven percent neutral, and just 12 percent pro-Palestinian. When reporting the dead, Palestinian deaths are vague, impersonal, and often non-existent, while Israeli deaths are prominent and humanize the victims by reporting details on their life and death. *If* the media were biased towards the Palestinians, maybe the Palestinian bombings wouldn't receive so much attention and the *daily* acts of Israeli violence and aggression would. Maybe we would hear of the Palestinian homes that have been demolished with people in them. Maybe we would be told of how Israeli soldiers have taken over hospitals, broken the equipment, damaged medicine, and locked doctors away from their patients. Or at least perhaps when a little boy gets shot to death by Israeli soldiers for throwing a rock at a tank, his death would be exposed and he would not be classified as dying in "clashes" or "crossfire" to hide the gruesome reality of his brutal murder. It is unfair, however, to place the blame solely on the American media since the Israeli army is notorious for shooting and killing journalists who try to get the truth.

Silverman labels a woman in labor as an "inconvenience" to Israeli soldiers. If having a baby is considered a security threat to the Israelis, then they need to reconsider their legitimacy as a state. As for the Palestinian children, when they see their family members being killed and their schools being fired at while they are desperately trying to receive an education, they know exactly who their enemy is; they don't need anyone to send them out to fight in their stead. Silverman's use of the word "terrorist" to describe a child is part of the Israeli dehumanization language that has branded Palestinian children with such names to justify their deliberate shooting of them. Even some Israeli army officials have been horrified by these intentional killings, for, as a senior officer said, "Nobody can convince me we didn't needlessly kill dozens of children." Furthermore, many human rights organizations such as the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights have documented patterns in which Israelis have targeted the eyes and knees of Palestinian children. This, according to Tel Aviv University Professor Tanya Reinhart, is "a little game of well-trained soldiers, which requires maximum precision." If Palestinian parents are to blame for the gruesome deaths of their children, then it is fair to argue that when several Israeli children are injured in a bombing of a settler bus in the Occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli parents are equally to blame for endangering their children and forcing them to live in armed camps on land confiscated from the Palestinians in the middle of the Occupied Territory.

Silverman claims that there have never been any Arab peace marches, yet she overlooks the fact that in December of 1987, four Palestinian men were crushed to death at an Israeli checkpoint while seven other teenagers were shot to death on their way home. The Palestinians responded to this atrocious act of violence by gathering on the streets in a peaceful march using nothing but their voices to protest the Zionist crimes. They were met, however, as Human Rights Watch states, "with repeated excessive use of lethal force against unarmed Palestinian demonstrators who posed no imminent danger of death or serious injury to security forces or to others." The Israeli forces shot them with live ammunition and tear gas, sparking the first *Intifada*. Besides, it has become quite difficult to have a peace march after the former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin enacted the Iron Fist Policy, a policy which requires crushing the bones of any Palestinian whom the Israelis could get their hands on.

Silverman is clearly the one who needs to review her history because she has twisted it to fit her own images. Ariel Sharon did in fact enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque with 2000 soldiers, and the United Nations has even made reference to it. He did not go in there with the intention of peace, but only to spark retaliation, for as he stated, "I am here to demonstrate that the Temple Mount is under Israeli sovereignty forever, and that every Jew is free to enter the compound." Sharon's provocative visit took place at a time when Israel was still refusing to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that confirm the status of Jerusalem as an occupied city. And was it a coincidence that Sharon and his henchman entered this holy site on the 18th anniversary of Sabra and Shatila? This massacre was committed by the Lebanese Phalangist army, but Silverman fails to mention that they were acting under the direct orders of Sharon, who had surrounded the refugee camps with Israeli tanks and soldiers at strategic locations in order to monitor the entry or exit of any person. Sharon and his army prevented civilians from escaping the camps and arranged for the camps to be illuminated throughout the night, so he must have been aware of the slaughter going on. Silverman argues, "Sharon has done everything in his power to end the perpetual violence," but even the Israeli Commission of Inquiry has held Sharon "personally responsible" for the genocide at Sabra and Shatila.

The Palestinians are fed up with the lack of justice, the daily Israeli atrocities and the humiliation that they have been subjected to for far too long. The Right to Resist is a right granted to the Palestinians by the United Nations, and they will continue to exercise this right as long as it is deemed necessary. It is a shame that they must respond to Apache helicopters and caterpillar tanks with their souls, but, as the late Egyptian president Gamel Abd Al-Nasser once said, "That which is taken by force can only be taken back by force," and the Palestinians are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to get back the land that does and *always* will belong to them.

The Argo welcomes op-eds and letters to the editor from all members of the school community. Submissions can be sent to kamcdonald@verizon.net or impensada@aol.com. Ideas expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Argo.

5.0 Reasons Why They're Better Than You

By Lisa Jing, III
Staff Writer

During the summers that I spent in China, my grandmother would remind me each year of two things: not to go to public restrooms alone – for fear of the potential ax murderers who lurk there – and not to date before I got married. I suspect that every obedient grandchild has learned early on to tune out these kinds of sermons. I, of course, had to receive them all during my summer visits to China since I spent the rest of the year outside of their jurisdiction. It seemed that relatives from every corner of the country would flock into my grandparents' dingy fifth-floor apartment in order to take advantage of the privilege of lecturing me. *Me*, the lucky one, the American one, the child who was expected to get straight A's and (naturally) go on to Harvard. In any case, all they wanted was to mold me into a generic workaholic high school student, one with no ambition except to get into a good college and be sustained by a high-paying salary for the rest of my life. They wanted to make sure that I would pursue at all costs the most valuable, GPA-generous classes available to mankind.

However, as my "career" at Boston Latin progressed, I found myself growing increasingly disgruntled by the words that my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, my uncle's former wives and so forth would continually mutter in my ear. I thought there was something inherently wrong in pushing myself to be a crazy GPA-whore who lost sight of the importance of learning, and would think only of the credit I would receive from my classes. Originally, I had requested to write this article as a means of painting the classic grade-grubber in a satirical light, and then end the show with a brief note encouraging students to *think* before letting themselves fall victim to the hapless greed that overcomes so many of us every April (for the clueless few who don't understand why April is significant, it's the month of course selection).



BY FRANKLINE HO, II

In place of beginning a massive witch-hunt and condemning all students who enjoy "the challenge" of juggling more than a few AP courses at a time, I decided to analyze the psyche of the classic GPA-whore. The definition of a GPA-whore has often been confused and misinterpreted at Boston Latin. A GPA-whore is not simply a student who does well in school and can bring home a gleaming report card each term, earning a pat or two on the head from the parents. A GPA-whore's very life depends on whether he performs well on each individual pen stroke of an exam; his grading system ranges from the low 97 to an obscure number in the hundreds. If he dares fall below this standard (to, God forbid, an A!), then all hell will break loose.

Another sign that a GPA-whore is in your midst, however, is the presence of a strong, sometimes fetid odor of stale caffeine. A grade-grubber downs gallons of coffee each day, as it is his only source of energy after two or three consecutive nights without sleep. Ever wonder *why* Starbucks became the latest empire on the block? You have the GPA-whores to thank for that.

In the end, what sets this species of students apart from their peers is the almighty philosophy they use to govern all things academic: credit, credit, credit! Sometimes, the more extreme (and usually, less talented) of the bunch even go so far as to take – without regard of academic strategy – courses in subjects they detest, while refusing to enroll in interesting and reasonably grade-awarding classes because they are not accompanied by the letters "AP." There are some GPA-whores, however, who do not subscribe to such a drastic dogma, and a dichotomy has formed in their species. First, there are the desperate, passionless students who pour over books day and night, and make every single decision based on how good it will appear on there résumé. And then, there are those who actually think first, develop commendable workaholic patterns, and give justification to the GPA-whore's classic pride.

It was due to this realization that I refused to become the passionless student my relatives in China so eagerly advocated. It is often difficult to pinpoint exactly what a GPA-whore is or what it is not. Maybe the worst of all grade-grubbers hate the Starbucks coffee I had so readily associated with their species. Who knows? All I know for certain is, when your guidance counselor begins henpecking you for elective sheets next week and waving appointment cards in your face, just make a smart decision. There is no shame in taking any class at the Latin School, regardless of whether it's attached to regular, honors, or AP credit.

After all, as an anonymous member of Class I so cheerily puts it, "Grades are only letters!"

Figures. She's going to Harvard.

Selling September, *Buying November*

By Rebecca Adams, II
Staff Writer

And Bush strikes again. It seems that wherever we turn, whatever we're doing, President Bush is also doing something...wrong. But is America becoming just a little bit too critical of this president?



COURTESY OF GEORGEWBUSH.COM

Maybe. Bush's campaign ads are the latest "issue" that the Democrats have with President Bush. The Bush campaign has been broadcasting a few ads in key states (Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin), and for those of you that haven't seen them, you haven't missed much. The ad that has generated the most controversy is the one that features different "challenges" with which the president has dealt. One of the featured challenges is the September 11 attack. The use of this tragedy in Bush's campaign ad has caused major criticism from not only Democrats, but from families of September 11 victims.

The ad itself seems very tasteful: the classy voice narrating about President Bush "being tested," the pictures of little children running around with smiles on their faces, and all the images of the American flag. Pictures of the September 11 tragedy and of firemen are also incorporated in the ad. The voiceover ends with the message "President Bush: steady leadership in times of change." What makes this campaign ad different from all the others we have seen is that it is not only taking advantage of a great tragedy, but is also offensive to many people who weren't even associated with September 11.

To use September 11 for political ends is exploitative and unnecessary. Isn't there anything else President Bush has done that he could brag about in his ads? Many firefighters have taken issue with the ads as well. "Bush is calling on the biggest disaster in our country's history, and indeed in the history of the fire service, to win sympathy for his campaign," said Harold Schaitberger, general president of the International Association of Firefighters. The firefighters feel, justly, that their valiant efforts are being cheapened and manipulated to win votes. They are further insulted by the fact that the so-called firefighters featured in the ad are actually actors.

The most compelling remark that I've heard over the course of this controversy is one given by Patty Casazza, whose husband died in the attacks: "When I look at the ads and I see Bush speaking over the pictures of Ground Zero, I know in my heart that President Bush failed the 3000 Americans that died there on that day." President Bush can claim whatever he wants about September 11, but when many people look at the incident of September 11, the image that fills their mind is not one of presidential leadership but of grief and national tragedy. It's only natural for people not to want to be reminded of this tragedy, especially not for the sake of a president rallying for sympathy votes.

Similar Struggles?

By Ethiopiah Al-Mahdi, II
Contributing Writer

The United States of America has been trumpeted as the land of the free and the home of the brave. Relatively speaking, this statement could be considered more true than false. Yet, in the most recent debate over legalizing same-sex marriages, the eyebrows on Americans have risen. Many feel that the discrimination against and inequality in rights granted to the homosexual community negates this old American cliché. Nevertheless, in the most recent strive to achieve civil rights for homosexuals, a suggestion has arisen which has become, in the opinion of this author, irrelevant. Many gay activists feel that civil rights activists for blacks, specifically, should feel an obligation to assist them in their struggle. To many blacks, this comment seems unjust.

The history of homosexuals as we know it is not comparable in magnitude to the four hundred years of oppression and the subsequent years of injustice which mark the history of blacks in this country. True, homophobia and inequality for homosexuals are cancers that will be cured only if the entire country devotes serious attention to them. Yet, it is important to emphasize that homosexuals were never enslaved or officially segregated in this country. Homosexuals have never been forbidden to read or write because of their sexual preferences, or forced to sit in the back of the bus. Signs that read "No Gays Allowed" or "Gays Only" never graced the walls of public theaters, restaurants, schools or bathrooms. Police dogs and fire hoses have never been violently thrust upon the children of homosexuals demonstrating for their rights.

Although discrimination against homosexuals does not rise to the same level as that against blacks, it could be argued that blacks have experienced many of the same hardships as gays. Known as miscegenation, the marriage of blacks to other ethnicities, especially Caucasians, was for years illegal in this country. And in the state of Alabama, interracial marriages weren't legal until the year 2000. Homosexual marriage is an even more contemporary issue. As of now, Vermont has legalized gay civil unions, which are in many ways the legal equivalent of marriage, and full gay marriage is slated to become legal in Massachusetts on May 17. Many feel that their shared struggle for marriage is enough of a reason for black activists to assist in the cause of gay rights.

Gay rights groups were never an active force during the civil rights movement for blacks in the mid-sixties, so why is it that now, black activists must volunteer their time? The problem with the entire suggestion of black activists participating in the attainment of civil rights for homosexuals is that the history of blacks in this country is greatly disproportional to that of homosexuals. The request that should now be made by gay activists is that all peoples, of all creeds, genders and sexualities participate in this struggle. Since it is a struggle for human rights, as fellow human beings, it should be our collective duty to assist homosexuals.



COURTESY OF CAB

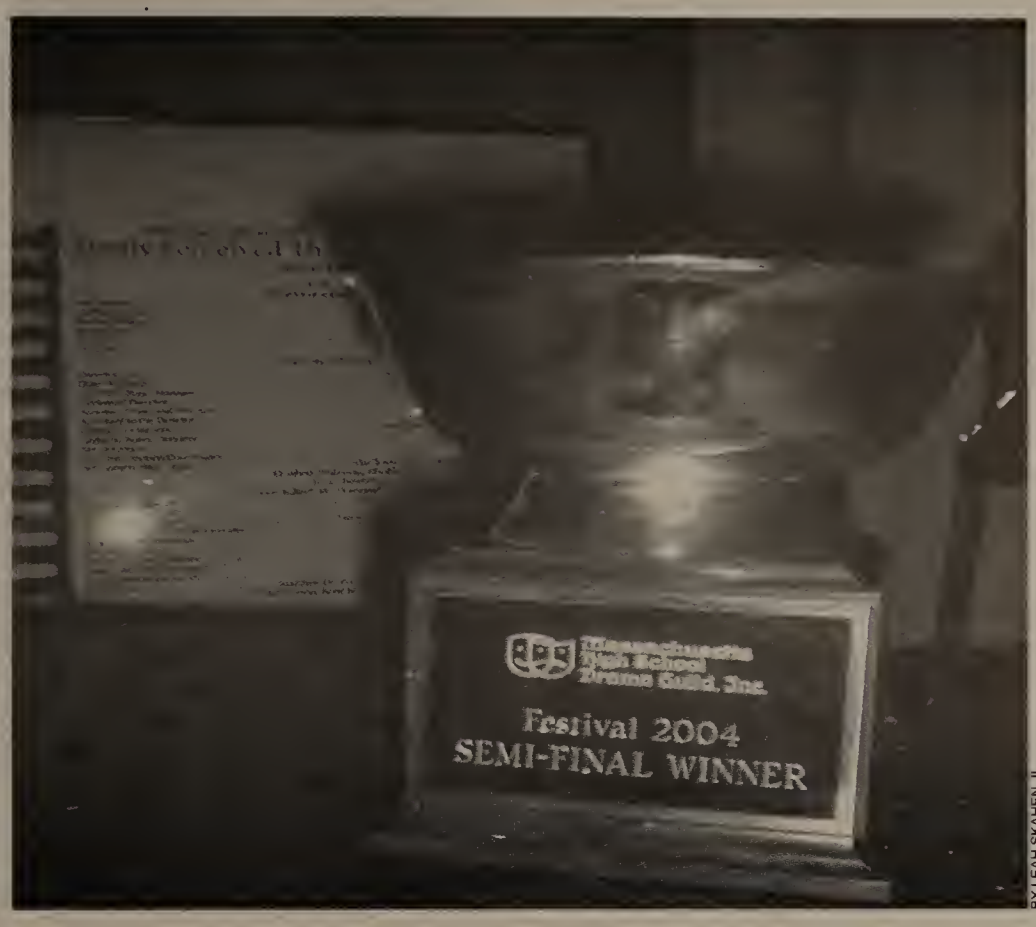
A&E

A Moral Victory

By James Barned-Smith, III
Staff Writer

Back in December, members of the Boston Latin School Drama Club began working on their annual winter play. This year, the play, their entrant into the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild competition, was *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*. The play is a dark comedy by John Klein, directed by Lydia Downing, I. It tells the story of a family falling apart under the social stresses of the mid-1990s, as the father, Josh Hauser (Dave Toro, II), begins an affair with his producer (Claire Tecce, III). Meanwhile, his wife Marlys (Lily Mooney, I) and daughter Christine (Kasey Carroll, II) become increasingly anxious because Josh's mother lies dying in the hospital. Christine, who can find no outlet for her problems, consistently gets into trouble, and the only person she can confide in is her school psychiatrist (Joe Connor, I). Finally, Josh's mother is placed under the care of the professional – if sometimes callous – Doctor Gray, (Nafkote Tamirat, I). The play was so well done that it was dubbed one of the fifteen best high school plays this year at the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild State Finals.

Over one hundred schools participate in Drama Guild competition each year, and so there are three rounds to whittle the field down to fifteen finalists. In the Preliminary round, on February 28, Boston Latin was at Scituate High School. It competed against six other schools for a chance to be one of three to advance to the Semifinals. Not only did Latin School advance, but it also won awards for Excellence in Acting (Nafkote Tamirat, Dave Toro, Kasey Carroll and Lily Mooney), Excellence in Directing (Lydia Downing), and Excellence in Sound Design (James Barned-Smith, III).



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

There were two weeks between the Preliminary competition and the Semifinals, a period in which our fine thespians tweaked their play in an effort to achieve perfection. On March 13, the members of the Drama Club again woke up at ungodly hours to be at Duxbury High School for the Semifinals. Here, they met with even more success: the overall victory, acting awards for Dave Toro, Claire Tecce, Nafkote Tamirat and Kasey Carroll, another directing award for Lydia Downing, another sound design award for James Barned-Smith, and an award for excellence in costume design for Dinah Thibeault, I.

The following week the play was performed at Boston Latin, where all this hard work was showcased for the school audience in four delightful shows. Yet another week after that came the final round: two and a half days of theater in which fifteen schools competed for three prizes. Although, once again, BLS won numerous awards for its cast and crew – the Award in Acting for Dave Toro and Kasey Carroll, Directing for Lydia Downing, and Excellence in Technical Operation for Elizabeth Timmerman, III, Andrew LeGendre, III, James Barned-Smith and Bieta Andermarian, I – it did not win the competition.

Just for the record, they were robbed.

Spotlighting JAMS

By Lin Ma, I
Food Columnist

On one frigid Wednesday afternoon, nineteen teenagers and their entrepreneurial mentors bopped merrily to the beats of KNK, a rap group comprised of several Boston Latin School seniors. With a slice of pizza in one hand and a pen in the other, the students evaluate the musical act. This is a crucial meeting for Spotlight Entertainment, a company founded at the end of January and run by high school students. The teens listened to and watched demos from various acts who want to fill one of the ten slots in the first product of Spotlight Entertainment: Spotlight J.A.M.S. (Junior Achievers Making Stars). The highly anticipated fashion and talent show plans to showcase the performing skills of youths in Massachusetts, and the selection process of the performers is intense.

J.A.M.S. walks students through the fundamental steps of creating, operating and liquidating a company over the course of twelve weeks. Every week, the students arrive at 3 am and regroup with the leaders and colleagues of their company—all of whom are their own peers. They come from different schools in the Boston and Greater Boston areas, including Boston Latin School. Initially, the program took a class-like approach that included lectures, assignments and instructors. As soon as student directors were elected, the company has run under their leadership. Jim Desroisier, an actual entrepreneur, advises and guides them. His supervision ensures that the program stays on schedule while still functioning as a company.


COURTESY OF SPOTLIGHTJAMES.TK

While staying focused and professional, the program still remains fun and interactive. The students were first asked to propose products that can be marketed to the masses, then select the better ideas, and finally put the best one into action. A majority of the group agreed upon Spotlight J.A.M.S., and the company was soon divided into individual departments to tackle their tasks. Stocks were sold, sponsors for the event were contacted and enlisted, advertisements were issued, and tickets went on sale.

After several meetings and many debates, ten finalists have been selected. The company has decided on a guest performer as well: the Massachusetts-based pop group Jada, which has opened for songsters such as Stacie, will be singing. Most of the acts are rookies hoping to win the grand prize of a five-hour studio session provided by Bristol Studios, the record label for Jada (www.bristolstudios.com). Although many of the acts will display their harmonic talents, non-vocal acts such as the BLS Step Squad and New Era Breakers will also compete. In addition to the talent segment, two fashion designers from Boston Latin Academy will share their fresh styles on the stage with a fairly brief fashion show. The range of talent will appeal to all audience members, and choosing a favorite is important since will be selected based on votes by the viewers. Audience members who want to compete are welcome to do so during an open microphone session at the end of the show.

The show is planned to take place on Saturday, April 10 in the Boston Latin School auditorium, at 5:30 P.M. For more information, visit www.spotlightjams.tk . To purchase tickets, call (617) 792 – 0758 or contact: Gretchen Guo (118), Monty Kaplan (131), Lin Ma (120), David Mann (135), or Johnson Tran (201).

The Secret Lives of Teachers

By Victoria Bartolome, II and Cindy Lee, II
Staff Writers

For those of you who read last month's issue, you might have noticed that there were some missing faces from the music department in the article on the outside lives of our music and art faculty members. We hope you didn't get the impression that they *don't* have lives, because interestingly enough, they do.

If there is anything we remember when we are pursuing our interests, it is how we began. For that reason, many school choir members today will probably never forget their beginning days in the Sixie Choir directed by Ms. Roseanna Fernandes. However, outside of conducting the Sixie and Fivesie Choirs at Boston Latin School, Ms. Fernandes is a church organist as well as choir director at the Church of Our Savior in Milton, and is even involved in their Sunday School Program. She conducts a preschool music program in Milton and teaches Vacation Bible School. If that doesn't sound enough to keep her busy, how about this? She also attends citywide choral reading workshops and gives piano lessons. Contrasting these activities to her work at the Latin School, Ms. Fernandes finds that she is allowed to do more one-on-one teaching and gets to use more of her religious background with these outside events. Some may not know that outside of the realm of music, Ms. Fernandes has a great interest in the ministry and preaching. Nevertheless, in all her endeavors both inside and outside of Boston Latin, her biggest hope and passion is to help children become better adults. With her advice to all her students being to "use music to express personality," it is

Continued on page 10.

Spotlight
Ariana Barr



BY FINELIGHT/MIKE RYAN

By Amanda Shapiro, I & Marie Delosh, I
Contributing Writers

She's a true artist; she can sing, play guitar, paint, draw and write. Is there anything this girl can't do? Well, she has yet to conquer the way people say "figure" (according to Ari, it's "figger.") But there's still time...

For as long as we've known Ari, she's been a musical performer both inside and outside of school. Her musical career at Boston Latin School began in the seventh grade, when she joined the chorus, where she stood out because of her unmatched singing voice. So, in the ninth grade, Ms. Wong-Ho chose her for Concert Choir and during the eleventh and twelfth grades, she became a tenor section leader. As a result, she has participated in many competitions including Handel & Hayden in the tenth grade, and the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, where she worked with other talented Boston Latin students to compose, perform and make a music video.

Ari has performed in every Music Night. She played Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and despite doubts that Ari could portray a character that had previously been voiced by a man, she wowed the crowd. She even participated in a rendition of the "Time Warp" (from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*) in Cabaret Night. Among the many Open Mics that Ari has participated in, she most frequents Emack & Bolio's on Wednesday nights and has even been one of their feature performers. The show's host, Jimmy Dorr, has only great things to say about her and she can always get the crowd going with her famous "Spanish song" (actual title: *Gracias a la Vida* by Joan Baez). Besides the depth of talent in her singing voice, Ari is truly unique among the thirty-something hippies who also play in that she has recorded a CD, including two songs she wrote and composed (on sale for $4! See Ari).

Marie first realized that Ari had a talent for drawing when she showed her some of her work from Mr. Stone's Connections Art class in the eighth grade. In the tenth grade Ari took art lessons at MassArt, and also took part in the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps Mural Crew, beautifying the streets of Boston. Her most acclaimed work, "Dementia", so titled by Papa Barr, hangs in the esteemed Barr living room.

Ari is also a leader. She has been an active member of the Latin School's Model UN Team since sixie year, and is now its president. She is also one of the co-founders and co-presidents of the Film Appreciation Society. Ari also helped found BLAH! (Boston Latin Activists are Here!), stemming from her passion for human rights.

There is a certain undeniable glow about Ari. No, it's not a residual glow from when her hair was a traffic-stopping pink. She is bubbly, outgoing, enthusiastic and the funniest chick we've ever met. She's a comedian yes, but an intellectual at heart. She can finish any crossword puzzle in a bus ride from the Latin School to Amanda's house (ETA: fifteen minutes). Upon her arrival at Amanda's door, Ari's first order of business is to frolic joyfully with her dog in the living room. But the canine closest to Ari's heart is her own Mr. Buster Brown.

A&E
More Than Just Teachers

Continued from page 9.

no wonder that so many of our students at BLS continue their musical journey into something close to—if not completely—a passion.

Another one of our newest members of the music department is Mr. Snyder. Known by many as Mr. Paul Pitts' helper or former student teacher, he is in fact the conductor of a new band, the Sixies Band. In addition, he helps a great deal with all the other bands. While teaching for us, he is also finishing his masters and plays for musicals in Pennsylvania. Besides music, he is a person with interests ranging from cooking to hiking. He is in fact a legal scout and has a great interest in animals and nature. He may be a teacher at BLS today, but one day we might see his name on a pamphlet for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, under the heading "Conductor".





PHOTOS BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

If you have met someone who plays music with his tie or is always seen rushing to one place or another, then you have met our head of the arts department, Mr. Pitts. His guidance for the past few years has taken the department to new heights. He is indeed a person with a schedule—his classes are often interrupted by phone calls. He also plays for the Portland Symphony, the Philharmonics of Rhode Island, and serves as judge for marching bands in the summer. Besides these, he is a Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Associaton (MICA) executive. While music is one of his top priorities, his family is also very important to him: he devotes his spare time to them. As an instrumentalist himself, he can easily relate to his students' perspectives toward playing music and as a consequence, he can teach his bands in a more productive manner. His job, however, is not finished here: he hopes to continue to improve the overall quality of the program and push all musicians to higher levels. He strives to involve more students in the Junior and Senior Districts as well as All-State. He hopes to keep the jazz band at their current level, and urges more students to begin to study privately. Finally, along with improvements to the music department, he hopes to acquire five full-time art teachers and to able to offer sequential comprehensive courses in arts and music. His advice to all the students is to pursue their dreams and spend some time each day doing something aesthetic instead of endless reading and writing. In his words, "Leave time in your life for beauty and to appreciate or create something beautiful." Of course, before he departs, he gives all musicians his greatest and most well-known advice: the 4 P's— "*P*ractice *P*revents *P*oor *P*erformance."

Well, this is our music and arts department. Our teachers don't seem so boring after all. In fact our respect for them has greatly increased because of all the time and energy they devote to our school. Hopefully, this window into their outside lives will inspire all students to embark on something that they truly love and that is helpful to others as well.

Fashion/Talent in the Limelight

By Ulrike Kraeft, II
Staff Writer

Who would have thought that the always-serious auditorium could be turned into a center of hot fashion and intense dance moves? When George Francois (I), the event coordinator, handed me the ticket for the Fashion Talent Show 2004, I knew I was in for a surprise. And indeed I was—tight security, faces of people I've never seen before, people breaking a sweat outside the doors, everyone dressed up and teachers in the audience. All this before the actual start of the show. And with sponsors like Mr. Tux, Marshalls and Antonio Ansaldi, I knew it had to be top-notch.

The pre-show music was turned up to get everyone in the mood, and a sliver of the red-lighted stage peeked through the curtain, hinting of things to come. The hall was packed with people, some complaining that they wanted to sit up-front after they had paid $6 at the door. Lots of time and preparation had gone not only into the acts, but also the fashion moves, with practices starting as early as October. When I tried to count all the participants and members listed in the fancy program, I got so dizzy that I gave up after my third attempt.

A rendition of the National Anthem started out the evening, with David Alexis (IV) and Mr. Simmons on piano receiving enthusiastic screams. Then Vivian Umeh '03 and Gayle Guilford (I) introduced the first act. The wake-up had the models strutting their stuff in the hottest pajamas. With each new appearance, the hemlines went up, concluding with shorts and a tank top from under a towel. From the time of rehearsals two weeks prior to the actual event, the performers had definitely worked on their walking skills, with everything coming together smoothly.

What would a show like this be without the always present Latin School-Latin Academy rivalry? Everyone let their loyalties show without getting in the way of the performances. Lots of screaming welcomed all the actors, singers and dancers, especially "Andy" and his moon-walking skills. After the Get Dressed! and Going Out! Scenes in which models showed off casual and formal wear, there was a short intermission in the program. The Going Out! club scene brought out almost all the participants, and dance routines and individual talent was demonstrated. Most moved to the music, and I almost got up too – but I didn't want to make a fool of myself. The Latin dance added some spice to the scene, with three couples twisting and turning, the ladies barefoot.

The auditorium was shaking by the time the runway battle, with Downtown Boston vs. London began around 9 pm. Here, the girls and teachers like Mrs. Rachel Skeritt and Officer Tonya Owens modeled the latest fashions, like the black zipper skirt-suit worn by Cidney Thomas (II). With three members of Classes I and II acting as judges, the pick went from 16 to 3, reminiscent of Tuesday night's finale of America's Next Top Model. A Cheesecake Factory gift certificate was up at stake and the whole show came to an end with the Carnivale! scene and closing comments by the officers of the Fashion Talent Show Club.

Overall, judge Aubrie Pagano (I) said that the show was a welcome change of pace to what one normally finds happening in the auditorium. Alyse Carter of Braintree High School commented that it was "good," but that there was a lack of flow and too many pauses. While it is hard to convey the enthusiasm that was present that night of six full-length scenes and multiple talent acts in between, the ringing in my ears for some time afterwards testifies to the upbeat spirit of the whole endeavor.

Need New Music?

*Remember the Battle of the Boy Bands? *NSYNC vs. Backstreet Boys, 98 Degrees vs. LFO, Hanson vs...well, you know. The time has come for the guys who strum their guitars to steal the hearts of girls everywhere. They make the male population wish that they knew how to play the guitar. These guys all have a unique sense of style and an immense talent that is worth a listen. Compiled by Catherine Moran, I. Photos Courtesy of amazn.com.*



One veteran crooner is Jack Johnson, whose first CD, Brushfire Fairytales, was released in 2002, closely followed by On and On and the Thicker Than Water soundtrack. His Hawaiian rhythms and folksy vibe have obtained him the title of one of Orlando Bloom's favorite artists. Makes you want to run out and buy the CD right now, doesn't it? Listen to it if you're hanging out with friends.



Howie Day won't be a lone front man for long. After releasing two CDs, Australia, in 2002, and Stop All The World Now, in 2003, he has decided to seek some band mates. After all, being a singer-songwriter is a lonely profession. Listen to it while you are driving in your car with the windows slightly rolled down.



Damien Rice's O came out last June, and although he has not yet hit mainstream radio, like Teitur, "Delicate" has been played on various television shows. Perhaps one of the best CDs of 2003, Rice sings with emotion and a jaded quality that bonds him to the listener, and holds his audience captive. Listen to it if you need a reason to shamelessly bawl your eyes out.

The Idiocy of Being Artsy

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

Random colors flash before my eyes. Actors grunt, groan and roll around in seemingly pointless circles. The best, however, is yet to come: there is an abrupt black-out on stage, which lasts for a few minutes, after which one actor comes out, points to the audience and emits a sound which I can only assume is her version of the burp of a dying walrus.

The play is about the plight of African-Americans in the twentieth century.

Is anyone else sick and tired of art that has been conceived and deemed art only for the sake of being art? I think we all know what I mean—works of art that consist of a single triangle in the middle of a blank, white piece of paper, plays that are one screaming mess of limbs and costumes. Of course, these pretentious excuses for art have been around for a while, but recently, they seem only to have increased in volume and sheer arrogance. Case in point: Drama Guild Festival, Finals, 2004.

The scene: about a million people are squeezed into the John Hancock building, waiting to see plays that should be quite good. After all, they made it all the way to finals with an assortment of awards and all of the judges' highest recommendations. Lexington High School, the Jack Nicholson of the Festival, is on next and I cannot wait. Their plays are always creative, almost always amazing and have a certain flair to them that cannot be matched. Please remember that I am extremely excited. It will be important later on.

To this day, I have no idea what I sat and watched for 45 minutes on that sultry afternoon. The actors went on stage, they jerked around, they sang opera and then had the opera sucked out of them by mysterious long black tubes. A phallic image? Who's to say? In short, I watched a classic case of acting masturbation. Granted, I was never bored and my eyes were always glued to the stage. Then again, if an old woman started tap-dancing in front of me while slowly performing a striptease, I wouldn't really get bored either. Neither option is terribly attractive, though.

Later on, we asked the actors from the play what in the hell their play was actually about. Their response? "It's really about anything you want it to be about. Oh, and the birth of creativity. And art." The verdict was in: the play was about absolutely nothing. Now don't get me wrong: I like to think of myself as an open-minded artist who wants to be challenged in what I see. However, 45 minutes of my life had just been sucked away watching a bunch of high school students in grotesque make-up doing what I can only guess was acting. Even worse, I had reminded myself that I was probably too dull to understand the deeper meaning of the play and had spent those oh-so-precious 45 minutes trying to perceive what hidden symbolism existed within it. I am stunned. I've never paid attention to anything for 45 minutes. Not even when I was failing math.

The Toilet Operas (we should have guessed) did not win. Or win any acting awards. God was smiling upon us all.

Now I know what the argument is that you simply cannot define art. After all, that's really what's so great about it. I completely concur. For example, I love abstract art, and I understand that I won't always understand what a specific piece is about. However, when confronted by the geometric shapes I mastered in the second grade, and told that they are being sold for $10 grand, I feel pity and anger. Pity for the blind person who's going to pay the exorbitant price and anger that I was never discovered in my elementary school years. I even colored within the lines, unlike some of these "artists".

We all know that art is integral to the development of all human beings. It's become a way of life for some, and without art, creativity, true thinking and individualism goes by the wayside. Art is created for so many different reasons, some practical, others simply arising from the impulsive need to make something new. I cannot accept the argument that anything someone says is art instantly becomes so. I'm all for thinking outside the box, steering away from mere linear thinking, but when a block of wood with a chip in it becomes the next best thing, the instinctive need to strangle someone takes hold of me. The whole concept of art becomes cheapened when garbage goes under that specific category and for some reason, this really only exists in the art world. Great literature is actually great; scientific discoveries hailed as absolute genius are actually that fantastic. What about art makes it the easy target of such simplistic ideas? Am I just too critical? Is it really that bad of me to like plots when watching shows, to need more than a single dot in order to claim that my visual faculties are really captured? Is God trying to tell me something?

Whatever may be the case, I remain firm in my stance. Let's review: art equals good. Random colors, flashing lights, simple shapes equal not art, and therefore, equal not good.

Starsky and Hutch: Do It!

By Ying Ying Fok, II
Layout Editor

It is hard to find good movies that neatly tie in action with comedy, but if you haven't already seen one, check out *Starsky & Hutch*. It is based on the popular television series of the same name that many have described as "gritty" and "groundbreaking". The series was a hit in the seventies, following cop duo Dave Starsky and Ken Hutchinson, also known as Hutch, as they rid the city of criminals with the help of their informant Huggy Bear. Whereas the show tended to contain mainly violent scenes, the movie itself is a bit toned down as far as grittiness is concerned. It's a light take on the beginnings of a quirky friendship that has been winning fans since the series premiere.



COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Starsky and Hutch

Dave Starsky, played by Ben Stiller, is one of the most vigilant cops in Bay City. So diligent, as a matter of fact, that his tenacious personality and over the top effort to catch the bad guys make him one of the least likable cops to work with in the department. Faced with this challenge of living up to his mother's reputation as the best cop the city ever had, Starsky will do anything to prove himself. Therefore, it's very sad that every partner that Starsky has had rejects him by requesting a transfer to another department.

Hutch, on the other hand has much more composure and tact. He is a dandy – the smooth-talking, likable type who can get himself out of any situation. When the occasional drug bust comes along, Hutch is up to the task and does not mind pocketing a little extra cash for himself. He's more or less corrupt and his recklessness eventually catches up with him. Police Captain Dobey pairs up these two cops with little expectation and initiates a seemingly hopeless effort to tolerate these two very different people.

Hutch's chief informant, Huggy Bear, is played excellently by Snoop Dogg. With his slow drawl and occasionally enlightening advice, Snoop Dogg's appearance is one of the most entertaining parts of the movie.

A cocaine deal organized by thuggish businessman Reese Feldman, played by Vince Vaughn, serves as the backdrop for the duo's chance to prove that they are worth their badges. In the meantime, Starsky and Hutch have been following up on leads that might produce the murderers of an unidentifiable man dumped in the sea. Their search eventually leads them to Feldman.

Their mini-adventures include a hilarious disco competition and some very odd role playing in an attempt to tweak information from a convict, performed by Will Farrell, who insists that the cops do certain things before he agrees to rat on his partners. These are all pretty entertaining, every character is allowed their chance to shine, and the action sequences include the usual car and yacht chases.

Don't expect to find a deeply moving film or one with a lot of subtle sarcasm. Stiller and Wilson make a comical pair and the movie is great if you're not looking for the next great classic.

Spotlight
Robert Grueter



BY FINELIGHT/MIKE RYAN

By Genevieve Klim, I
Contributing Writer

You've probably seen his artwork in the past in *The Register*, or on various posters for campaigning school politicians, but what you may not know is that Bob is very dedicated to it. Most of the time, if he is not lurking mysteriously in the hallway, Bob can be found in the art room, working diligently on his latest piece. Lately, he has been working on his Art AP portfolio. Many of those pieces contain teddy bears representing "evil corporate America." Oh yes, Bob is so very deep. One of the character qualities that he brings to his art is an ability to look at life from a totally unique and uninfluenced point of view.

Bob first became serious about art freshman year, and during his sophomore year took art classes across the street, at Mass Art. He has worked on a mural in Dudley with the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps and this past summer helped to construct a 50 ft. steel sculpture that is situated atop a building near Boston Harbor. And no, he does not talk about putting up pieces illegally because that is, in his words, "just cheesy."

So I asked Bob why he does art. His response? "To feed my ego." Needless to say, it was not exactly what I was expecting. But it makes sense in a way, because if ego is a sense of self, in expressing oneself through art one finds personal growth. Bob is not your stereotypical brooding artist. He does not use his work to release inner emotions, he does not wear all black and he does not sip cinnachocalattas. Rather, he admires the works of a strange mix of artists: graffiti artists like Twist and Joker, and old favorites like Van Gogh, and Todd MacFarland.

In his work, Bob uses different mediums like spray paint, markers and watercolors—basically anything to get the job done. So if Bob is not out to express some deep emotional concern through his artwork, one might ask what his main purpose is. "To take over the world." Hey, you asked... Seriously though, another thing that is appealing about Bob's artwork is that, much like himself, it is genuine. There is no sugar coating, and no hidden meaning to be derived from extensive pondering. Just head to the visual arts wing and you'll get a glimpse of the essence of Bob.

Along with spending countless hours with a pen in hand, Bob is also the captain of the BLS football team and a member of the wrestling team. His Friday nights are spent at ballroom dance class where he demonstrates a remarkable lightness on his toes. Watch out, ladies—he's a maniac on the floor! Bob is also a Scorpio and enjoys trips to Aruba.

Although Bob suffered pangs of misery inflicted by his loss of superlative title of "most artistic," he still maintains that he is the best artist ever. What lies in the future? Well, there's always college art programs—followed by the charms of a life as a starving artist—and Bob has many a choice to make. There are very few people out there who have the talent and the drive to make it in this competitive and subjective field, and it takes a courageous person—Bob—to throw himself into it headlong. In art, there are no guarantees.

Parade of Nations

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

There are certain shows that make one want to jump for joy. The experience is so fantastic that one starts wishing that the show will never end and pretty soon, one loses oneself in the utter beauty of the entire performance. I am pleased to inform you that such a show did indeed take place, *here*, in Boston. The music was inspiring, the performers were charismatic and thought-provoking, and the entire event was both seamless and effortless.

That's right: *Movin' Out,* the musical extraordinaire with the music of Billy Joel.

Oh, and the International Showcase was good too.

So, I walk into the auditorium at 6:00, slumping into a seat towards the middle, and wondering where my friends are. At 6:28, I remember that I left the oven on at my house and a feeling of sharp anxiety takes hold of me. At this exact moment, the lights go down and the curtains close, so of course I had no choice but to stay there and hope that my mom had remembered to buy a fireproof kitchen.

Funny thing about that, there is no such thing as fireproof kitchens, so my parents are pretty upset.

The show starts with Dandàn Zhu (II) playing a piano solo and singing a Chinese song that she composed. Her lilting voice filled the space admirably with words that I can only assume talked about happy, good things. Of course, she may have actually been swearing while smiling; I often do the same. Next was a Vietnamese Dance, which was again very pretty, filled with scarves and lots of pretty girls. The Traditional Indian Dance was pretty, really long, but overall well-done.



PHOTO BY FRANKLINE HO, II

The Wolfettes were good with excellent harmonies and extremely talented soloists. Ari Barr (I) is to be commended for her masterful job of directing this amazing vocal group.

I have a special note about the Cape Verdean Dance, namely that I think Sonia Lomba (I) has more than earned her superlative for "Best Rear View," judging by the abundance of male screams and boisterous catcalls.

Boston Latin Academy Salsa was good.

The martial arts performance was long. Victoria Bartolome (II) achieved the almost impossible; she managed to beat up a guy without ever actually touching him but merely gesticulating with her foot at his crotch. Props to Vicky.

Harmony of Time was good. Very pink.

"A Whole New World" performed by Chris Abramo (I) and Sully Jereidini (II) was good, however, both should have held their microphones closer to their golden pipes.

The Chinese Fan Dance had very pretty fans that shook very nicely. Nice job, girls.

The Filipino Fireflies balanced glass containers with on their heads. Sincerely, this was amazing. I was stunned by their control, balance and fantastic synchronicity abilities.

The Irish Step Dance was beautiful. All thirty minutes of it.

The Bhangra was amazing because Taha Jafri (I) was in it. Props yet again to Sonia's amazing derriere.

So, all in all, it was a great performance and I'm glad I went. The emcees were very funny some of the time, but then they spent the rest of the time getting lost in the curtains and singing songs like "Everyone was Kung-Fu Fighting". (Zak Trayes-Gibson put his own personal spin on this American funk classic. No props to Zak.)

I'm so glad I went.

Sports Gaming to the Streets

By Johnson Tran, II
Contributing Writer

NFL Street
Publisher: EA Sports
Developer: EA Tiburon
Genre: Sports
Available on: PS2, Xbox, Gamecube

First, NFL Blitz spoiled gamers with fun and exciting gameplay beyond belief. Then, Madden NFL enticed us with a life-like simulation of the NFL. But where is the bridge between the worlds of arcade and simulation football? How can superstars like Priest Holmes and Ray Lewis show their skills at a high level, but appear to be human at the same time? Well, let me introduce you to NFL Street, the no-holds-bar, "Madden who?" pigskin galore that defines the true meaning of pick-up football...with the NFL top stars.

In this seven-on-seven brawl, gamers can have the endless option of how they want football to be played. Personality fixations are loaded in NFL Street – choose blazing attire from detailed shoulder pads, "impact" shoes, gloves, and signature moves to stand up opponents, such as "X gonna give it to ya" and "Show me the money." Of course, the real players of the NFL light up the game, like Randy Moss, Donovan McNabb, Marshall Faulk, and Tom Brady. Envisioning these players bulked up and laying hits after hits after hits outside a stadium in places like the beach, warehouse, and courtyard magnifies the "Street" experience and depicts the game itself.

Supplementing unbelievable actions in commonly played areas, players can showoff their stuff on the field, the dirt, gravel, or sand with extraordinary moves. No look passes, stylistic over-the-pile hurdles and haymaker tackles are hardcore moves that would seem superhuman in real life, but are just the basics in Street. However, like in every game, practice makes perfect. It will take a fair amount of time to effectively use these moves to master the game. The timing of pitches, fake-outs (spins and jukes), and tackling separates the pros from the rookies. Especially, the use of the style buttons makes or breaks games; a misuse of the combination with a button and a move will demoralize players, with fumbles and interceptions galore. The controls are simpler than Madden's; however, having different arrangements, mastering it may take longer than expected.



COURTESY OF WWW.XBOXMAGONLINE.COM

Graphically, NFL Street is surprisingly fluid in every animation – a surprise because of its high paced game play and muscles-jacked players. Every image of the game, whether small or large, can be seen and identified. Anything that is made in contact with – piles of watermelons, stacks of crates, surfboards – smoothly retorts and moves, especially players after being laid out or pummeled on the wall. How Street differs from the world of football videogames is the ability to see accurately portrayed players' faces, without helmets. Their facial expressions add a real life perspective in the game on how a player could respond to a pain-staking hit. Nothing is graphically missed except for field conditions – the location does not get roughed up or altered in any way after jukes or tackles are made. However, the graphics in the game will be more than what fans would expect.

NFL Street is not quite at Madden's level, with history and improving game play every year. Street is still raw and new, but it does have tons of upsides and potential. With showcase of NFL talents battling in everyday places, moves that would leave everyone in awe, and hip-hop and rock music from DJ KaySlay, X-[illegible], Kottonmouth Kings, Lil' Flip, [illegible] and the Wyld Stallyns, the gaming world will make a demand for NFL Street 2 as soon as possible!

Spring Sports Schedules

Varsity Baseball

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Friday	***4/2***	Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***4/7***	@ Westford Academy	4:00
Thursday	***4/8***	Methuen	4:00
Monday	***4/12***	Newton South	4:00
Wednesday	***4/21***	Concord Carlisle	1:00
Friday	***4/23***	Acton Boxborough	1:00
Monday	***4/26***	@ Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	Weston	4:00
Friday	***4/30***	@ Wayland	4:00
Monday	***5/3***	@ Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***5/5***	Westford Academy	4:00
		@ Boston College	
Friday	***5/7***	@ Newton South	4:00
Tuesday	***5/11***	@ Duxbury	3:30
Wednesday	***5/12***	@ Concord Carlisle	4:00
Friday	***5/14***	@ Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***5/17***	Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***5/19***	@ Weston	4:00
Friday	***5/21***	Wayland	4:00
Monday	***5/24***	Catholic Memorial	4:00
		@ Harvard	

Boys' Volleyball

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Tuesday	***3/30***	English	3:30
Wednesday	***3/31***	Brighton	3:30
Friday	***4/2***	Latin Academy	3:30
Tuesday	***4/6***	@West Roxbury	3:30
Wednesday	***4/7***	@Somervillle	3:30
Monday	***4/12***	@Catholic Memorial	3:45
Tuesday	***4/13***	@John D. O'Bryant	3:30
Friday	***4/16***	@Cambridge	3:45
Tuesday	***4/27***	Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	Newton South	4:00
Friday	***4/30***	Madison Park	3:30
Tuesday	***5/4***	@Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***5/5***	@Newton South	4:00
Friday	***5/7***	O'Bryant	3:30
Monday	***5/10***	Catholic Memorial	3:45
Wednesday	***5/12***	@Latin Academy	3:30
Friday	***5/14***	Cambridge	3:45
Monday	***5/17***	Somerville	3:30

Softball

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Friday	***4/2***	Concord Carlisle	4:00
Monday	***4/5***	Archbishop Williams	4:00
Wednesday	***4/7***	Newton South	4:00
Monday	***4/12***	@Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***4/14***	Westford Academy	4:00
Friday	***4/16***	@ Latin Academy	4:00
Wednesday	***4/21***	@Wayland	1:00
Monday	***4/26***	Weston	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	Fontbonne	4:00
Friday	***4/30***	@ Bedford	4:00
Monday	***5/3***	@ Concord Carlisle	4:00
Wednesday	***5/5***	@ Newton South	4:00
Thursday	***5/6***	Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Monday	***5/10***	@ Westford Academy	4:00
Wednesday	***5/12***	Wayland	4:00
Friday	***5/14***	@ Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***5/17***	@ Weston	4:00
Wednesday	***5/19***	Latin Academy	4:00
Thursday	***5/20***	Bedford	4:00
Monday	***5/24***	Acton Boxborough	4:00

Boys' Tennis

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Wednesday	***3/31***	Concord Carlisle	4:00
Thursday	***4/1***	Catholic Memorial	3:30
Friday	***4/2***	Bedford	4:00
Monday	***4/5***	Xaverian	4:00
Wednesday	***4/7***	@Westford Academy	4:00
Monday	***4/12***	Newton South	4:00
Thursday	***4/15***	Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***4/26***	@Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	Weston	4:00
Friday	***4/30***	@Wayland	4:00
Monday	***5/3***	@Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***5/5***	Westford Academy	4:00
Friday	***5/7***	@Newton South	4:00
Monday	***5/10***	@ B.C. High	4:00
Wednesday	***5/12***	@Concord Carlisle	4:00
Friday	***5/14***	@Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***5/17***	Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***5/19***	@Weston	4:00
Friday	***5/21***	Wayland	4:00
Monday	***5/24***	@Xaverian	4:00

Girls' Tennis

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Wednesday	***3/31***	@Concord Carlisle	4:00
Friday	***4/2***	@Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***4/7***	Westford Academy	4:00
Monday	***4/12***	@Newton South	4:00
Wednesday	***4/14***	@Latin Academy	4:00
Thursday	***4/15***	@Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***4/26***	Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	@Weston	4:00
Friday	***4/30***	Wayland	4:00
Monday	***5/3***	Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***5/5***	@Westford Academy	4:00
Thursday	***5/6***	Newton South	4:00
Monday	***5/10***	Latin Academy	4:00
Wednesday	***5/12***	Concord Carlisle	4:00
Friday	***5/14***	Acton Boxborough	4:00
Monday	***5/17***	@Lincoln Sudbury	4:00
Wednesday	***5/19***	Weston	4:00
Friday	***5/21***	@Wayland	4:00

Track

Day	*Date*	*Opponent*	*Time*
Saturday	***4/3***	DCL Relays @ AB	9:45
Wednesday	***4/14***	@Wayland w/Bedford	4:00
Wednesday	***4/28***	@ CC w/ LS	4:00
Saturday	***5/1***	Weston Twilight	5:30
Saturday	***5/1***	Frosh/Soph Meet	
Wednesday	***5/5***	@ NS w/ Weston	4:00
Friday	***5/7***	@Weston Frosh Meet	4:00
Saturday	***5/8***	Girls Invitational, Plymouth	9:00
		Boys Invitational, Lowell	9:00
Wednesday	***5/12***	@ AB w/ Westford	4:00
Saturday	***5/15***	State Relays @ Andover	9:00
Wednesday	***5/19***	DCL Championships @Wayland	3:00
Thursday	***5/20***	J.V. Championships @ LS	3:30
Saturday	***5/29***	Class A Meet	
Saturday	***6/5***	All State Meet	
Saturday	***6/12***	New England Championship	

Boys' Baseball On Deck

By Catherine Foley, II
Staff Writer

The boys' baseball team decided to start off the season a little earlier this year in hopes to improve their performance from last season. Although it was the first time they didn't make the tournament, they are planning to learn from that experience and prove what they can do.

Playing out of the Joe Moakley field in South Boston, the boys finished last season with a record of 8-12, a result of four non-league losses to Catholic Memorial, Methuen, and twice to Brockton. However, they tied third place in the Dual County League (DCL) with the record of 8-8.

Out of the fifteen players on the team, only four graduated. One of which was a DCL all-scholastic Jack Clucas, who was an outfielder from South Boston. This year's team, although young, will have a couple of key seniors leading them: Brian Nowak, a pitcher, and Anthony Poulos, a catcher.

Last year's team was not strong at the plate. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association league rule that outlawed the use of metallic bats, was definitely a huge adjustment for the Wolfpack. However, this rule has been changed and the boys go into this season with confidence and aluminum bats, which will hopefully improve their performance.

So far, the team has showed their determination by starting captain's practices earlier and has spent considerable time on hitting. Leading the team as a captain and as a hitter is senior Brian Nowak. He confidently said, "We have a good core coming back so we could put together a real good year. We got an extra year of experience." Last year Brian put up a good numbers, hitting .300 knocking in ten RBIs and stealing seven bases.

Pitching should be a strength of this year's team. The right-handed pow-



wherehouses include Nowak and juniors Sean Martin and Ian Chuckran. Sean is expected to surpass his record of 4-2 and a 1.3 ERA. Dennis Moran could also add a quality arm; the left-handed sophomore shows promise, as well as other players coming up from JV.

Opening day was April 2nd against Bedford. Every game these guys play should be worthwhile. However, mark your calendars for their games against Methuen, Lincoln-Sudbury, and Catholic Memorial. They are looking forward to playing at two beautiful venues, located at Boston College and Harvard University.

You can catch the game against Catholic Memorial at Harvard University on May 24. Coach Coleman looks forward to this season and expects that "this year we should have an improvement and qualify for the tournament and challenge for the league championship." Let's hope that he is right.

Spotlight
Adam Jeness


BY FINELIGHT/MIKE RYAN

By Danielle Lacey, I & Alexa Kuzmich, I
Contributing Writers

When you think of Adam Jenness, the first thing that comes to your mind isn't his debonair good looks, love for country music, great sense of humor, or sick flow (ex: hockey hair, dangles or Tennessee flop-top). Well, maybe you think about the hair, but the thing we're trying to get at is hockey.

When Adam first laced up his skates to join Arnie's Army, an instructional skating class, he and his parents knew that hockey would be a sport that he would love. He started playing in house leagues in South Boston, and advanced to competitive travel teams at the tender age of four.

Not only has Adam played for hockey team for two seasons, but he was also voted Assistant Captain by his teammates in his senior year. The boys had a great season against some of the toughest teams in the state, coming out with a record of 12-8-2. The team made it all the way to the semifinals in the state tournament, winning an intense, fan-ridden game against Canton, and ending it with a good fight against Nauset. Although his hockey career at Latin School has come to an end, Adam, known as Napoleon to some of his teammates, is leaving the team with some close friends and great memories.

Although hockey seems to be the main focus in his life, Adam has also been involved with Boston Latin's golf, track and baseball teams. In addition to these varsity teams, he has had a significant career with South Boston Pop Warner Football, where he played for three years. He started playing baseball when he was eight years old with South Boston Little League. Baseball has brought him many exciting opportunities in his life. You can even catch the cameo of a young Adam on a neighborhood baseball diamond in Southie in the popular movie Good Will Hunting. For two years, he also played RBI, a league that invites players from all over Boston to play during the summer. After playing in the Little League for five years, he decided to represent the Wolfpack once again. His skill, love for the game and his intense effort has allowed him to play for Boston Latin for two seasons.

An activity that has become popular among the BLS hockey players is joining Coach Bennie Myers on the golf team during the fall, which Adam did in the tenth grade. The golf team isn't exactly known for their stellar record against tough teams such as Weston and Lincoln-Sudbury, but all the boys try hard and have fun. As in all the sports he takes part in, Adam always puts in 100 percent and tries to ensure that the whole team is doing their best while still having a good time.

When we asked Sean O'Brien and John Bruno, close friends as well as esteemed hockey and golf teammates about their impressions of Adam's athletics at Boston Latin, Sean said, "even though he's hit rough times in his sports career he has always pulled through." Bruno added that the teams appreciate his presence and even called Adam "half man, half amazing."

This fall, Adam will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and he hopes to play junior hockey in western Massachusetts. So from now on, when you see this young man in the halls, don't think of him as just another small jock from Southie with amazing hair. Think of him as a small jock from Southie with amazing hair, a great sense of humor and a promising future ahead.

Sports
NFL Not Fazed by Ruling

By Edward Chiu, II
A&E Editor

The February 5 ruling by U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin was supposed to change the face of the NFL. It was supposed to impact Draft Day for years to come. It was supposed to bring the next Lebron James to the NFL. It's now been two months since the ruling was handed down and three weeks before Draft Day. Where is the buzz about the Lebron James of the NFL?

Maurice Clarett sued the NFL last year to challenge the 1990 rule that a player must be three years out of high school to be eligible for the draft. Under that rule, Clarett, who rushed for 1,237 yards and led Ohio State in 2002 as a true freshman to a national title, would have been eligible for the 2005 draft. Scheindlin said the rule violated the antitrust law. The NFL quickly appealed this ruling stating that the rule was agreed by the Players' Union in the collective bargaining agreement, and thus immune from the antitrust law. Scheindlin upheld her ruling.

But the NFL knew all along that this ruling would not live up to its hype. They knew all along that it would not fill training camp in July with players coming out of high school or college underclassmen. Unlike the NBA, where players coming out of high school can create an immediate impact, football requires an intensive strength and conditioning program. Is there a reason why only Clarett, and Pittsburgh sophomore wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald—who would have been declared eligible by the NFL anyways because of a year at a prep school—and USC freshman wide-receiver Mike Williams, are the only underclassmen coming out of college early? College football players are smart. They've seen how Mike Utley was paralyzed after a neck injury during a game in 1992. They've seen the hard hits delivered


COURTESY OF ESPN.COM

by Troy Vincent and Ray Lewis. They will make sure they are mentally and physically ready for the NFL. Something that Clarett firmly believes in.

The same goes for the high school players who met the March 5 deadline to declare themselves eligible. It definitely made NFL officials smile when they learned who declared themselves eligible. There were a total of eight high school players and one junior college player who met the deadline, the best player believed to be Ronnie McCrae of California's Pasadena City College, who had 0 interceptions for an 0-10 team. The other players include offensive tackle Ken Petitt of Michigan's Redford High School, running backs Ethan Mitchell of Flowers High School in Maryland—who never played for the varsity team—and Joe Banks of New Directions of Academy High School, a Baltimore school for developmentally-disabled children, quarterback John Belisle of Capac Community High School in Michigan and defensive tackle Earl Fields of Georgia's Appling County High School, both of whom were not on their school's football rosters, and wide receiver Joe Lee of Gates High School in Washington, a school which doesn't have a football team.

In the age of free agency and the salary cap, players like Clarett definitely do not impress NFL coaches, scouts and personnel directors. The NFL does not have a farm system. Every spot on that 53-man roster is important. Every player drafted in the current NFL goes through long hours in workouts and interviews with coaches and scouts. NFL executives are too smart to take a big gamble with their first pick and take a high school kid. Besides Clarett, the other nine high school and junior college players will either be drafted in the seventh round or go undrafted. It isn't that simple to cash in at the NFL.

So where is the buzz about the Lebron James of the NFL? There is none.

Girls Crew Rowing Strong

By Caroline Sullivan, II
Staff Writer

One of the fastest-growing sports at Boston Latin School is crew. Three years ago, there was no crew team here at BLS, and now the team has swelled to about seventy members. Enlarging the team was no easy task. The girls undertook a massive fundraiser to buy themselves boats. After selling the specially made Wolfpack Nalgene water bottles, the girls were able to come up with enough money to buy four boats. The increase in boats led to an increase in membership. The team now fields two varsity boats, two junior varsity boats, and four novice boats. Because the team offers a novice level, girls who have no prior experience in rowing can join the team and can learn how to row. Crew is not the type of sport that one can start when she is young, so BLS offers the opportunity for girls to learn a new sport. This makes the sport accessible to many who otherwise would not have the chance to row.

The BLS crew team starts its preseason earlier than any other team—they begin their workouts in February, when most winter teams are still playing. One can often find the girls running in the hallways or working out outside the gym. Also, thanks to generous donations, the girls have access to rowing machines, or "ergs," as they call them. These rowing machines allow the girls to practice indoors when the weather is too cold to be on the water. When the weather becomes more favorable, the girls head out to Community Rowing Inc (CRI) in Brighton everyday to practice on the water. This season, the girls' hard work will pay off when they compete in more competitive races, such as the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association and the Massachusetts Public Races.

This season will be a building year for the team, as they have a few returning members and many new girls. Under the leadership of captain Lindy McGrail (II), head coach Gillian Curran, and assistant coach Richarch Porteus, the team is sure to succeed and make a name for itself as one of the top crew teams in the state. With the large number of sophomores and underclassmen, as well as the many novice rowers, the Wolfpack will be a powerhouse in crew in the years to come. The BLS crew team is a group of hard-working girls who ought to be commended for their dedication to the sport.

Outdoor Track Keeping Pace

By Kassandra Skipper, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Track and Field is a sport at Boston Latin School that seems to be easily forgotten. Although it doesn't have the hype that comes with football or hockey, the dedicated, hard-working members of the Wolfpack track team try their best at practice every day. Most of the members are indoor track veterans who look forward to the move from inside to outside with the improving weather. Another good amount include the smart hockey and football players attempting to stay in shape during the off-season.

There are many additional runners this year. The number of athletes that make up the boys' and girls' team this year is around seventy, a significantly larger number than last year. One of the long time members, Kerry Sullivan (I), anticipates the coming season with excitement, not only in the larger numbers but also in the improving talent of all the runners. The team practices at Roberto Clemente field, a much anticipated change in scenery from the halls and stairs of Boston Latin.

Ms. Pritchard is the head coach for boys and girls of both the indoor and outdoor seasons. She has been coaching for many years here at BLS.

The track team does not have a home field. They have to travel to all of the Dual County League schools to participate in meets. This makes for a season full of traveling and puts the team at a slight disadvantage; they are never able to capitalize on the "home court" advantage. It also makes it difficult for members of the Latin School community to show their support.

However, the Wolfpack, as is expected, rises to the challenges each year. Despite the lack of their own field and a small cheerleading section, they put up good competition each season.

The team voted for captains, but as of yet, the results have not gone public. While the team is full of talent, a few of the stand out runners include Caroline O'Laughlin (III), who qualified for the All State Championships for the 1000-meter dash, coming in 14th over all, Arkadiusz Turolski (II), Shaun Price (I), who qualified for states in the long jump during the indoor season, Jonathan Ye (I) and Andrew Leone (I). These runners all competed in Indoor Track as well, with many of them qualifying for states and for DCL championships.

When thinking of track, it is easy to only think of running. Many people forget that there are other events to compete in. Along with the various distance races and relays, Wolfpack athletes compete in hurdles and field events such as the discus, javelin, shot put, long jump, triple jump, high jump, and pole vault.

Kerry Sullivan is hopeful of the coming season, "We are anticipating a strong season, with both team and individual improvements and successes." Liz Tricco (I) also stands out both during the Indoor and Outdoor season since the 8th grade.

The season is just starting and the entire team is pumped up. Check the BLS web page to find out where the closest meet is. Try to catch a meet or two, they promise not to let you down!

Boys' Volleyball Makes Net Gains

By Luke Liu, II
Staff Writer

One of the less mentioned sports at Boston Latin School is boys' volleyball, a small yet highly successful team that remains competitive year after year. This year, the team, led by captains, David Wong (I) and Peter Trenh (I), looks forward to another highly successful season.

Volleyball itself is a very difficult sport to play. "A lot of people think that volleyball is a sissy sport because it is so easy to play, but it is not as easy and painless as it looks," says co-captain David Wong. Volleyball is a six-man sport that requires mental concentration and physical abilities. It is not uncommon to see players crash to the floor to save an unlikely ball, only to stand up only a few seconds later for the next play.



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Boys Volleyball dominates the ball.

The 14-member varsity squad practices every afternoon until 6 p.m., far later then many other sports at Boston Latin. Coach Huy Pham runs the practices, which consist of offensive drills, such as hitting and placement, defensive drills, like passing, setting, blocking, as well as technique and game-play tactics. The long practices are intense and physically demanding, but the result of the team's hard work is displayed in every one of its matches.

Last year, the boys' volleyball team was one of the best in the Eastern Alliance League. Their strong 13-5 record earned them a playoff berth against Lawrence, to whom they lost by a narrow margin of five points. It was a disappointing end to a successful season. This year, however, the volleyball team is back with more experience and even higher expectations.

With returning veterans such as Samson Tsoi (I) and Ivan Wong (I), this year's volleyball team should be able to surpass last year's strong record. This year's team is full of experience, and members such as Ian Chong (I) and Jared Prince (I) often aid their younger teammates. Furthermore, the varsity team has far more depth than last year's. Newcomers such as Tuan Vu (11), Matthew Gittens (II), Eric Chan (II), and Jim Luo (II) provide the needed support for the veterans.

One of the reasons that the volleyball team is so successful is the team's chemistry. All of the members are friends both on and off the court. They help one another not only on the court, but off the court as well. Peter Trenh (I) jokingly remarks, "I looooove my team!" But it's true; all the players share a friendship with one another. During the off-season, the members frequently play pickup games, and the results culminate to improved performances during the season. After all, better team chemistry results in better performance.

The team looks forward to the season, having already defeated English High in the opener, yet another expected win against their rivals. This year's volleyball team should be exceptional. Co-captain David Wong sums it up best, "With experienced veterans and added depth, this team is promising and will go far in our league."

BLS Tennis Gears Up

By Jin Bin Liu, II
Staff Writer

Although it may not seem like it, spring is here again; with the passing of winter, tennis season begins.

Every day immediately after school, tennis enthusiasts, both veteran and novice, board a school bus and ride to Dorchester's Sportmen's Tennis Club. There, the Boston Latin School boys' and girls' tennis teams share six outdoor courts. Practice lasts about two hours and includes, training on the basics of forehands, backhands, and serves, as well as challenging matches, which are used to determine lineups for both the varsity and junior varsity teams.

The girls' team is returning from another fantastic State Championship finish, extending their winning streak to a remarkable three years. Coach Paulanne Wilson proudly states, "We've won it three years straight. I don't think any other team in the league has ever done it before. Maybe twice in a row; but we're the only ones to have achieved this." However, this season, the team is without three seniors who were instrumental to the team's past success. Nonetheless, Coach Wilson is still optimistic. "You never know how it's going to turn out," Coach Wilson reasoned. "You just have to work at it and hope for the best." As of now, Coach Wilson has not yet formed the lineup of seven for this year's varsity team.

The boys' team is returning from a less than stellar performance. Despite the fact that the team went 4 - 16 last year, Coach Bill Kates expects to make the state tournament this season with a .500 or better record, something the team has not done since 2002. Coach Kates explains, "We're stronger this year. We have many good young players. We're the underdogs in the league; the other schools play all year round. But the players are hungry. I think we have a legitimate shot at playing in the tournament this year."

The returning veterans will lend experience and expertise to this year's team. Despite the tough opposition from teams in the Dual County League, Coach Kates believes his team can and will prevail. In fact, Coach Kates has already drawn up a tentative lineup for this year's varsity team.

Here are the players and their positions: Jason Kramer (II) - first singles; captain Carl Adams (I) - second singles; Darius Banani (I) and Sam Strassman (V) - first doubles; David Qin (IV) and Jake Graham (IV) - second doubles; Gian Carlo (IV) - third singles.

Winning three out of five of these events will score a win for the team. To reach the state tournament, the team will need to win ten out of twenty matches. The same events and rules apply to the girls' team as well.

Girls' Softball Hitting Hard

By Courtney Ferguson, II
Assistant Sports Editor

Proudly wearing purple visors and socks, the girls' softball team is always hustling, even when they are at a disadvantage. Although last season's results were a little disappointing, the girls are again trained very vigorously in order to make the Dual County League State tournament. With returning veterans, the team will have strong leadership that will hopefully help them obtain a respectable record.

Because of the loss of five key seniors and a few other girls due to various reasons, this season, the team is left only with a few returning members. However, the remaining players, Katie Dooley (I), co-captain Anna George (I) and co-captain Caroline Sullivan (II), who have all been on the softball team since the eighth grade, are fully capable of managing this fairly new group of girls with ease. All three of these girls contribute their time and effort to strengthening the team by each contributing their particular skills. Anna George, the pitcher, the most important position, serves as the backbone of the team. She delivers all of her pitches with perfected technique and confidence; even when the times are rough, she is able to get the team out of a disastrous inning. Caroline Sullivan reigns at third base, almost never allowing a ground ball or a crisply line drive fly past her. Katie Dooley is always there to catch the deep pop-ups. In addition, all of them are successful at the plate, bringing both strength and speed.

Tim Holland has returned to manage the varsity softball team and Mrs. Mary Balaconis has taken the task of training the junior varsity girls. The two coaches conducted weeks of carefully supervised try-out sessions in order to select the lucky few that would be joining the team. The candidates had to effectively display their skills in running, throwing, batting and catching. Try-outs consisted of running numerous laps, fielding drills, batting practice and scrimmages. After a few weeks of grueling and lengthy practices, the final cuts were made and the new members are eager to begin the season.

Since the teams have been chosen, the girls have been practicing in both rain and shine every day in order to prepare for their first game of the season. They practice for two hours after school at Daisy Field in Jamaica Plain. Right now, their focus is to establish positive team chemistry. Also, they have been focusing particularly on defensive strategies, mostly placing an emphasis on executing smooth infield plays in order to stop the opposing team from getting on base. The outfielders are trying hard not to let any fly balls or ground balls get past them.

The girls' varsity softball team hopes to begin the season with victories. Their first game was on April 2, 2004 against Concord-Carlisle. Co-captain Caroline Sullivan's expectation for this year is to make improvements and enter the state tournament. With their dedication and teamwork the girls are likely to have a rewarding season.

Spotlight
Katherine Pittore



By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

Katherine Pittore is not your usual jock. She is the only "athlete" I know who doesn't own a pair of sneakers. Well, she claims that she was forced to buy them for gym class years ago—but I have yet to see them. Katherine is often mistaken for a quiet, studious and demure Boston Latin School student. However, if you observe her closely in class, you might notice her muttering sarcastic comments to the teacher or other students. Kat has done very well at the Latin School, as she is both a National Hispanic Scholar and a National Honor Society member, and is seriously considering attending McGill University in Montreal next year. She plans to continue sailing and swimming in college—"at least as intramurals," she says.

Katherine has been swimming since she was 11 months old and attended parent-child swim classes with her father. She began to swim competitively at summer camp after the fourth grade, and continued to swim as much as possible until joining Boston Latin swim team in the fall of the eighth grade. Her trademark stroke is the butterfly, which is important because "no one else wants to do it." During the fall season, she drags her gear across town to Dorchester everyday and swims for two hours. She is constantly teased for being too quiet, though she enjoys swimming with her teammates. They have not won a great deal of awards since she has been on the team, but she says that this season was "the best we've had in a long time."

Sailing, Katherine's springtime sport, takes up a great deal of her time as well. She learned to sail at age ten at community boating in Boston. Shesailed for the last two summers on the Rockport sailing team and has been on the Latin School team since the ninth grade. Her team won fifth place last year at the Mass Bay League Championship and she has also won awards individually.

When asked about sailing, Katherine says, "We're a small team, so most of us are pretty dedicated...we have a lot of fun." She remembers wandering through a tent city with her team on the way to a competition, and attending a regattaduring a hurricane. On one particularly fun sailing team adventure, some members of the team hid out in one of the public toilets to see how exactly the toilets cleaned themselves. The team uses the water taxi T daily to get to sailing, which she describes as "very cold and wet, although it has a unique view of the city...even though it doesn't really go anywhere useful."Katherine has determined that in order to get to her sports extracurricular,she has utilized every form of public transportation that the T offers – not surprising, considering that this urban amanita doesn't own a car.

Katherine can often be seen strolling around school in an exotic wardrobe acquired on her travels abroad, comprised of items such as teardrop earrings from Prague or that funky skirt from Barcelona. She spends a lot of her time traveling with her mother, and is considering a career in the Foreign Service. Katherine is mature for her age and when asked about her career at BLS, she says, "Overall, I am really glad that I did sports. I've been able to meet kids from other grades. Plus, it has kept me from going insane about the academics..." She trails off and mutters something about the atmosphere of BLS, but I decide against asking her to speak up.

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Picture day for clubs	7	8 Battle of Bands	9 Good Friday	10
11	12 School Site Council at 6 pm in room 119 Last day for Register submissions	13	14	15 Spring String Fling in Black Box Theatre at 6pm	16	17
18	19	20 No School: April Vacation	3	22	23	24
25	26 Professional Day: No School	27	28	29 Music Night	30 Music Night Massachusetts Junior Classical League Convention at UMASS-Amherst	

May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Massachusetts Junior Classical League Convention at UMASS-Amherst
2	3 AP Exams Begin	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Red Cross Blood Drive	13	14 Asian Night	15
16	17	18 MCAS for grades 7,8, & 10 begin.	19 Art Show 6pm	20 Urban Dance in Auditorium	21 Junior Prom	22
23/30	24/31 5/31 Senior Prom	25 MCAS ends Math Awards 6pm	26	27 National Honor Society Induction	28 Improv Show	29 Improv Show

Haven't been rejected? Ask a friend to help you fill this out!

Dear (your name)_____ :

We regret to inform you that (name of school/college) _____ is unable to accept you into our class of (year) _____. We feel that you are far too (adjective) _____and (adjective) _____ for our institution. We are a school of (noun) _____ and we look for students that are (adjective) _____ and (adjective) _____. The fact that you (verb) _____ in (place) _____ and (verb) _____ (noun) _____ makes us very concerned.

You also made an extremely (adjective) _____ impression of yourself to our (noun) _____ who, after meeting with you, told us that you were very (adjective) _____, constantly (present participle) _____ (plural noun) _____ at him. He was willing to (verb) _____ you, but when you began to (verb) _____ and (verb) _____, he became (adjective) _____ and advised us to (verb) _____ you.

We were also not (adjective)____ with the visit you made to our (place) _____. The (plural noun) _____ in the dining hall ran out (adverb) _____ after seeing your (adjective) _____ display of (noun) _____. All of our (plural noun) _____ also swore to (verb) _____ if they ever saw you in our (place) _____. In fact, they said that they would immediately (verb) _____ and sue us for (present participle) _____. As you can see, your presence here would cause a great deal of unneeded (noun) _____.

We apologize again for any inconvenience this has caused you, but we simply cannot accept you into this (place) _____. We wish you the best of luck in you search for another school.

Sincerely,
(messy signature) _____
(name) _____
(profession title) _____

By Katie Chong, I

Boston Latin School

Argo 2004



Fo(u)r

he arrives alone
sweating, shivering in the
cold.
nobody's there
except him, the geese,
and the gravestones as his witnesses;
he speaks softly
like winter whispering
through his grandmother's windows.
no tears come
they have been there too often
rather
his shade of smile
is echoed by the sun's
slight offerings.
a fleeting pause,
then he departs.
he wanted to be there
when his friend
turned 18.

Congratulations
to our son
Frank J.
Ashe

Best of luck,
Your Parents

ELYSE,
Some gems are
more
precious than
others...
You are a
treasure.
We are so proud
of you.
Love,

MOM & DAD

Boston Latin School
Argo

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The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding [illegible] Boston Latin School community.

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The DNC Comes to Boston

By Trude Raizen, II
Assistant News Editor

When Boston won the heated competition to host this summer's Democratic National Convention there was only celebration and talk of the millions of dollars the city would reap in benefits. In March, the locations of state delegation parties were revealed, and a variety of classic Boston destinations including Boston Latin School made the list. As time passes, the news has taken a less optimistic turn. The fundraising committee at Boston2004 Inc. has been consistently short of its goal while many predict cost overruns for the elaborate event that is to be held at the FleetCenter. Because of the busy location, an amalgam of security forces hinted that there would be closures on major surrounding roads and on the MBTA. Recently they revealed a transportation shutdown more extensive than anyone had imagined. They will clear almost 40 miles of major roads and ban some areas of downtown parking, leaving Bostonians to face a traffic nightmare that may cripple businesses. The day following the unveiling of that plan, John Kerry, the shoo-in nomination for the Democratic presidential candidate, announced that he might withhold his acceptance of the nomination until a month after the convention. This would have been a strategic move to avoid restrictions posed by campaign finance laws, but Kerry has since succumbed to pressure from many directions and will still be named the Democratic candidate during the convention.

The DNC will be held from July 26 to 29, with the intricate set up of the FleetCenter staging to take more than a month to construct. The city is undergoing a beautification process including everything from cleaning up trash to refurbishing the more than 100 fountains all over Boston. Convention organizers and city officials wanted to remove the defunct green line tracks from the FleetCenter area, but the tracks are under state jurisdiction and Governor Mitt Romney would not comply.

According to a statement on Boston04.com, Mayor Tom Menino is making these efforts because this is "the chance to showcase Boston not only as a vibrant city with its historical atmosphere and its contemporary, international flavor, but also as a premier destination for tourists and conventioneers alike. Most important, the world will discover what we already know - that diversity is the strength of our city."

Before the city secured the convention, Boston2004 had obtained pledges of millions of dollars towards the city's portion of the expenses, and efforts continue to acquire the necessary funds. Contributors include individuals, unions and corporations. The committee is still short on cash, with more and more cost overruns predicted. The fundraising goal is $39.5 million, with approximately $5 million yet to be raised. The total cost of the convention will be $64.5 million, but the federal government is footing the rest of the bill.

Despite the intensive planning, controversy has arisen on several fronts. Perhaps foreseeing trouble, the Boston Police asked late last year that the convention be moved from the centrally located FleetCenter to the brand new South Boston Convention Center. Because a $ 3.5 million deposit had already been made and Democrats value the FleetCenter's convenient layout for camera crews and downtown location, the idea was quickly dropped. The FleetCenter poses security issues that will cause the North Station MBTA stop to close, with the Green Line ending at Haymarket, the Orange Line running through, and the Commuter Rail running bus shuttles into the city. The Convention will further complicate transportation matters be making it especially hard to navigate anywhere in the Boston area when the major roadways that pass by the FleetCenter are shut down. Among the roads to be partially blocked off from 4 pm to 12 pm each day of the Convention are I-93, Route 128, the McGrath/O'Brien Highway, Route 1 Southbound, the Mass Pike, and Storrow Drive. The Sumner Tunnel will close, with only the Callahan Tunnel to transport cars to and from East Boston. There will be no parking around the FleetCenter and in parts of Back Bay. Within Boston residents will have a hard time getting around, especially in the downtown area, and those employees who reside outside the city will find the commute nearly impossible because huge backups in traffic are predicted. Despite the MBTA's extra service and shuttles, the public transportation system will likely also be clogged.

In addition to being short on employees who cannot make it into work, the parking bans and traffic routes will hurt some businesses. The tourism industry will receive a boost from delegates but will be without its usual customers. Boston is also losing money on the labor to close the roads, and the city had to pass on other events including the U.S. Gymnastics Olympic Qualifying Competition, worth $15 million, and Sail Boston 2004, worth $95.6 million. The convention will earn $121.4 million for the city, according to figures by the Beacon Hill Institute and the University of Connecticut. Each estimates that tourism and retail losses combined with "road and rail closings" will add up to a net loss of $34.3 to $49.8 million, according to the *Boston Globe*.

This could all be worth it if it showcases Boston as the place to be. Boston2004 is making a special effort to highlight the city's small businesses, especially those owned by women and minorities. On such a large and public stage, the city will have the chance to attract other large conventions, general tourism, and even business branches. The mayor promises that "the impact of the convention will undoubtedly extend well beyond the last week of July."



Two weeks ago Kerry alarmed convention organizers by considering an unprecedented move. The historic purpose of party conventions has always been the candidate's nomination and acceptance. But under current campaign finance laws, spending is limited once a nominee becomes official. Because the Republican Convention in New York takes place a month later, President George Bush would have those four weeks to spend freely while Kerry would be restricted. With public opinion so easily turned by glamorous campaign ads, Kerry's aides felt this would be detrimental to his bid for the presidency. To remain competitive in the spending department, they would have had delegates gather as planned for a speech and the rest of the revelry in July, but the actual voting would have take place over the Internet on September 1. Only then would "the nomination ...be formalized, accepted, and documented," explained spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter. This plan drew condemnation from campaign finance watchdogs, Republicans, countless Democrats who have worked on the convention, and especially the Bostonians making sacrifices for the event. Less than a week after the plan became public it had been scrapped due to the pressure and a variety of legal and publicity concerns that arose. The nomination and acceptance will go on as planned, during the convention, and Kerry's campaign will attempt to find other ways to even the fundraising field.

To go along with the nomination there will be parties galore. A broad and quirky cross section of Boston is represented in the thirty sites picked to host the states' individual delegation parties. Oregon representatives will convene at Boston Latin School, while Ohio convention-goers will head to the Samuel Adams Brewery. Area parks, colleges, libraries and museums will be flooded with state delegations. And walking down the streets of Boston will be ordinary citizens from all over the country serving as delegates as well as Democratic big-wigs.

The DNC will highlight Boston on the map, with nearly every major broadcasting corporation set to cover portions of the Convention. After a weekend of Yankees at Fenway and amidst the late-July swelter, it is sure to make life interesting for those Boston residents that haven't booked their summer vacations from July 26 to 29.

To Christopher Tam: Best of Luck! From: Mom & Dad	For Bryan Newbold -- the odds were good, the goods are greater With love - jane x max x dave	John, Congratulations. We are proud of you. All our love and support, Mom, Dad, and Julie
Congratulations Cristina!! WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR HARD WORK! !!!See you in NYC!!! Love, Mom Dad and Natalie	CONGRATULATIONS MAX! Love Mom, Dad, Tiana & Papa	Congratulations Alexandra! Love, Your Parents

Farewell to Old Favorites



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

Joseph LaCroix

1. When/why did you decide to become a teacher?

My first desire to teach mathematics occurred while I was a senior at Milton High school in 1964. I was a member of the Math Club and the Chairman of the department nurtured my interest in math. She gave me an extra credit assignment on the subject of determinants. Then she asked me to teach it to a junior class. I was hooked. I applied and was accepted to Northeastern as a math major in the School of Education.

However, in the mid-sixties was a time of tremendous change and conflict. It became increasingly important for me to get involved and be a witness to what I believed about justice and my faith in God. I actively protested against the war, demonstrated for civil rights but most of all turned towards a calling to ministry. I thus left northeastern and studied Theology at S. John's Seminary in Brighton in preparation for ordination. Again, by 1969, the crisis of the sixties was at an apex, even in the Church. I decided that I needed to leave that vocation. Thus, I returned to my first inspiration and applied for a position in Boston. It was late August in 1969. My friends were heading to a place, later called Woodstock, while I raced to get certified as a teacher. The rest is history.

2. When did you begin teaching at BLS, and which subjects have you taught?

My assignment at Boston Latin began in August of 1989. I had just been excessed from my position as department chair at English High School. During the same week, while Mr. Salvucci was the acting chair at Latin, his wife had a severe stroke. Subsequently, he asked Mr. Contompasis to be relieved of his duties so that he could care for his wife. It was the very next day that Mr. Contompasis invited me to take the position. I was thrilled. Having been in Boston Public Schools for 20 years, this was the only job I ever wanted. Sometimes, its about being in the right place at the right time, or as I would say, God has a plan.

3. What at BLS made you want to teach here, as opposed to another school?

Mr. Haberstroh and Mr. Durant were my first mentors [during] the transition to the 'rigors' of Latin. They guided me in 'moving up' to teaching the 'best of the best' in an 11 honors [classes department]. I also befriended Ms. Kelley who assigned me to her 1st Lunch duties. It was a difficult stepping into the position [of] department head. I was treading upon a long tradition where the former heads were revered. Bill Durant was a legend and I had the honor of working with him as a department head on citywide councils. Leo was also a colleague with whom I had a friendship during our years of teaching Calculus at Northeastern at night. Gradually, after I had 'tasted the flavor' of Latin (which is purple) I caught an insight into how I could best serve the members of the department, as well as, engaged myself with teaching the 'best of the best.'

4. What is the most memorable moment of your time at BLS?

There are many 'big' moments during my 15 years at Latin. I was excessed again in 1993 and was given five classes and a HR at Hyde Park High in 1993. Perhaps the clearest form of affirmation I received occurred when Mr. C sat next to me and Ms. Woodward at Court Street and fought for our jobs.

Another moment was when Mr. C told me to wear my best suit. I only had one. The next day Mr. Walsh and I were invited guests to visit Mr. Thomas Phillips, the CEO of Raytheon. We joined him and two of our seniors for lunch in his boardroom. Then he gave us a guided turn of the Andover plant where the Patriot missiles are made. This was just after the first Gulf War.

I have also endured the pain of having a student die during the year. One in a car accident and another was a tragic suicide. It was most difficult to see her seat remain vacant for the year.

Perhaps the most difficult day of my Latin school career was a Monday in October of 1999 after Bob Lee died. Bob was a close friend both in school as a colleague and outside the school as sailing buddies. My heart was broken all that day, yet I was also reaching out to console his students and members of the department. His intern from Simmons, Donna Zitney, was devasted. It was only with the grace of God that our grief was consoled. Healing took time but eventually we pulled the pieces together and prayed a lot. I miss him still, even to this day and probably all my tomorrows.

5. Do you have any specific plans for what you want to do after you leave BLS?

My immediate plans after BLS are to pay the bills. I will have two children in college next year – enough said. I will have to postpone for a while my plans for sailing and for finally getting to my 'to-do' list projects around the house. I am actively pursuing a position to teach math in a Catholic high school somewhere on the South Shore. I hope to have a second chance to put two vocations together. I can teach math and begin a class with prayer and not attendance. Though I have often said a prayer before entering many a class at BLS; namely, "God, give me the strength to make it through the day."

6. Is there any advice you can give to your colleagues and students?

My advice, if I dare offer it, is to find a quiet place in your day to keep a focus on what matters most in your life. There is just too much noise that distracts us and too many interruptions.

Believe in what you do, proceed as you intend to act. Keep faith in who you are and that what you do matters. As a community of colleagues realize our need to be a source of care and encouragement for one another. Finally, be alert to the double-edged sword of competition. Its goal must not be for the glory or ever self-serving. Its true vocation is that of leadership; especially as leadership in the service for others.



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

Elaine Woodward

1. When/why did you decide to become a teacher?

My grandfather did not speak English as his first language and I spent a lot of time with him when I was young. In high school I studied as many languages as I could and I continued in college.

2. When did you begin teaching at BLS, and which subjects have you taught?

This is my fourth decade at BLS and I have taught French, Spanish, Latin and Greek.

3. What at BLS made you want to teach here, as opposed to another school?

I have been here 60% of my life. This was and is the best place in the country to deal with intelligent young people of all nations and races.

4.What is the most memorable moment of your time at BLS?

That question is too hard, especially since I met my husband when I was teaching here.

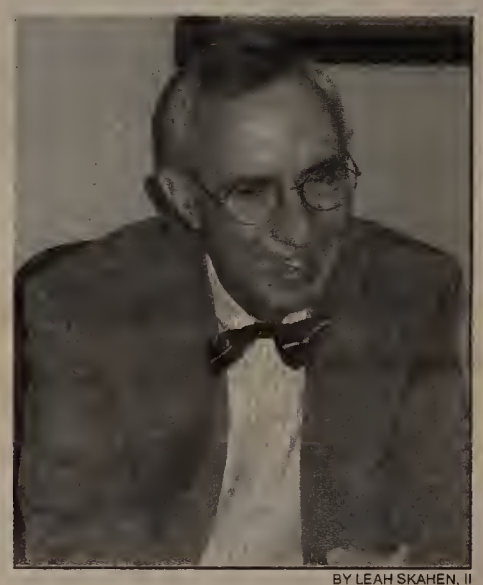
5. Do you have any specific plans for what you want to do after you leave BLS?

Right now, nothing specific beyond moving from one house here to one in Massachusetts and another in Florida. My secret wish is to renew my acquaintance with the piano. I haven't had lessons in 40 years, but I've got sheet music.

6. Is there any advice you can give to your colleagues and students?

Treat everyone, including yourself, the best you can and you will be rewarded greatly.

As Molière said: << il faut fuir les extremités>>.



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

Walter Lambert

1. When/why did you decide to become a teacher?

First year of teaching was January 1963 at John Marshall High School in Cleveland, Ohio. I think that probably two factors led to my career in education. The first was a passion for history and the second was that I enjoyed speaking and performing before and audience. Teaching allowed me to combine the two, and fortunately, teaching history turned out to be a huge amount of fun.

2. Which subjects have you taught?

AP U.S. History and AP Modern Europe.

3. What at BLS made you want to teach here, as opposed to another school?

In my view, great schools have the following qualities: a) focus on academic achievement b) motivated students c) quality faculty and skillful administrators d) admissions based on merit e) tradition. Boston Latin has all of the above characteristics. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to teach at BLS.

4.What is the most memorable moment of your time at BLS?

Undoubtedly, it was the first thank you note I received from a student in my first BLS history class. I had come to BLS in the middle of the year, and taken over a regular U.S. History largely consisting of seniors. With graduation only a few months away, daily quizzes, intense lectures, and expository essays was not what most of the students expected or wanted. Despite student "grumbling", I plugged ahead and taught the course. At the end of the year, a student wrote a wonderful note thanking me for my commitment to the course and the quality of instruction. The note brought tears to my eyes. It reaffirmed why I love teaching, love students, and why teaching at BLS has been the most rewarding in my 38-year carcer in education.

5. Do you have any specific plans for what you want to do after you leave BLS?

Yes and no. My wife and I have scheduled several long trips i.e. travel. Otherwise I am simply going to retire, read, plant flowers, watch baseball and football on TV, and go to the symphony, etc.

6. Is there any advice you can give to your colleagues and students?

Two of the things I have learned is to not give advice to my adult children, and don't give advice to teaching colleagues.



BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

Vera Kathleen Wilson

1. When/why did you decide to become a teacher?

From my point in "Time" it was a safe and secure field that was available to "females".

2. When did you begin teaching at BLS, and which subjects have you taught?

School year 1987, Department of Mathematics – Subjects: Pre/Algebra, Algebra and Pre/Calculus.

3. What at BLS made you want to teach here, as opposed to another school?

I am from out of state: I was recruited via of John Carroll University...I was assigned by the Board of Education.

4. What is the most memorable moment of your time at BLS?

The Truth is "I can not think of just one."

5. Do you have any specific plans for what you want to do after you leave BLS?

I have been thinking of being idle... Idleness is not doing nothing; idleness is being free to do anything.

6. Is there any advice you can give to your colleagues and students?

Remember Antoine de Saint-Expupéry's message given in The Little Prince. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Interviews were submitted in written form and not edited. Compiled by Ashlyn Garry, III.

RESIDENCY UPDATE

As the *Boston Globe* reported on May 25, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Judith Fabricant overturned the Boston Public School's decision to dismiss two seventh grade students because the students were not given enough time to prove their residency. The Boston Public Schools system has been ordered to hold a hearing to resolve residency issues in the future. There are still many aspects of the issue to be dealt with, such as the possibility of new residency legislation and what will happen to students who continue to live outside the city and own income-generating properties within the city. The *Argo* will continue to report on any updates in the future.

It's Here, It's Queer, and It's Legal

By Ariane Williams, I
Asst. News Editor

On Monday, May 17, City Halls across Massachusetts opened their doors for the first time to gay couples seeking marriage licenses, marking the end of six months of uncertainty for the same-sex marriage movement, though not the end of the controversy. The Supreme Judicial Court ruling passed down in November and hotly debated ever since has made Massachusetts the first state to legalize gay marriages, and despite the ongoing debate, couples have flocked to take advantage of their newly accorded right to marry.

Among those lined up on City Hall Plaza in Boston were the Goodriches, the lesbian couple that first sued for the right to marry in 2003. The decision in their favor on November 17 provided for a six-month waiting period to give officials a chance to rewrite marriage laws to accommodate same-sex unions. It was believed that the Court would legalize civil unions, the process invented by Vermont's courts for the benefit of gay partners. Instead, civil unions were discarded as "unconstitutional, inferior, and incriminatory," in the words of the court's majority opinion, and same-sex marriages were instated. Detractors argued that the SJC's ruling was highhanded and made without the support of the legislature or the people of Massachusetts. In Governor Mitt Romney's words, the SJC wrongly "circumvented the Legislature and the executive, and assumed to itself the power of legislating." However, a gay marriage bill will be considered by the legislature at the 2005 Constitutional Convention and the decision could be put in the hands of voters in 2006. As Hillary and Julie Goodrich moved from City Hall to a nearby courthouse to have a judge waive the standard three-day waiting period between acquiring a license and getting married, Mayor Thomas Menino was talking with the line of couples, supporters were cheering and small groups of religious protesters were praying and singing hymns. "What has happened is a small number of judges have redefined the word marriage for the rest of our society," said Reverend Rob Schenck, one of several clergymen present. "The reason I say this is so wrong is because it violates fundamental moral laws."



BY TRUDE RAIZEN, II

The Goodrich Family

Other members of the clergy did not share this view, pointing out that this was a legal, not a religious, decision, and that churches would continue to support or condemn gay relationships as they saw fit. "There is a clear distinction between civil marriages and religious marriages. No religious leader will ever be forced to perform a religious marriage that goes against their religious rights and practices," said Reverend Maureen Reddington of the Church of the Sacred Earth.

In Cambridge, the City Hall opened at 12 a.m. to distribute licenses. Some couples began lining up Sunday morning to be among the first in the state to obtain the licenses, and by 10:30 they were waiting inside with a wedding cake, choir, and Mayor Michael Sullivan. Fred Phelps, a prominent fundamentalist activist, and a group of protesters stood behind riot police across the street with brightly colored signs, but they were gone by 12. Leading up to midnight, a huge crowd gathered, fanning out onto the lawn and then spreading into the street. By the much-awaited hour the crowd was so dense that it was hard to move around. Excited couples and supporters sang a capella renditions of "God Bless America" and "The Star Spangled Banner." A brass band accompanied the crowd in "Going to the Chapel," the Jewish "Hava Nagila" and Wagner's "Wedding March." There was a raucous countdown to midnight, and the loudest cheer of all was for the first couple to leave City Hall, with a license triumphantly raised in the air.



BY TRUDE RAIZEN, II

Boston City Hall Plaza on May 17

Reverend Kim Crawford Harvie, a Boston Unitarian minister who has been at the forefront of the fight for gay marriage, waited in front of the City Hall building with her partner, Kem. Having performed 25 same-sex marriage ceremonies, she was optimistic about the newly wed couples. "Of the weddings I've done so far, the average length the couples have been together is way more that 10 years...some as long as 30 years...I think the divorce rate is going to drop dramatically."

Bill Cotter, the president of Operation Rescue Boston and one of the protesters in Boston, agreed that the Goodrich decision would provoke change, but was less sanguine about its nature. "There'll be a cultural shift... to the detriment of our social fabric."

Despite these recent developments, gay marriage is far from becoming a universal right; Romney has already promised to enforce a 1913 law preventing out-of-state couples from marrying in Massachusetts if the marriage would be illegal in their home state. Opponents of the governor's counteraction protest because this law was originally enacted to prevent interracial marriages. Also, many of the clerks charged with the task of issuing marriage licenses refuse to check couples' residencies, arguing that they have never before been required to do so.

Regarding the May 17 festivities, Reverend Crawford Harvie expressed a view that was undoubtedly shared by people on both sides of the conflict: "I can't believe we're alive during this time in history."

With reporting by Trude Raizen, II

Church Closings Strain Communities

By Kathryn McDonald, I
Forum Editor

The Archdiocese of Boston is slated to undergo a series of church closings starting this spring. This emotionally charged process, which is the second large wave of church closings since the late 1990s, has brought feelings of anger and disbelief within the Catholic community of Boston. According to the *Boston Globe*, the properties may bring as much as $400 million into the Archdioscese, which is confronting lower attendance, a decline in vocations, increasing costs of building repair and lawsuits over the sexual abuse scandal.

A total of 60 churches in the Archdiocese have been earmarked to close. The Archdiocese services 357 parishes throughout Greater Boston. In order to determine which parishes would be closed, local parishes were clustered into 81 groups. The clusters voted on one parish within the cluster that ought to be closed. The results of each cluster vote were sent to Bishop O'Malley's associate vicars, who reviewed the recommendations and then sent their own recommendations to O'Malley. Bishop O'Malley received a total of 90 recommendations, and from these recommendations O'Malley chose to close 60 parishes.

Many Catholics were upset with the entire reconfiguration process. Nicole Senecal (I), who attends Pius X in Milton, a church that services many Hyde Park parishioners and has been earmarked to be closed, called the process " too bureaucratic and impersonal." She also said, "there will probably be a lot of resistance [to the closings] and it most likely will not go over well."

The news of church closings has sparked a range of feelings within the Catholic community, from anger and disbelief to sadness. The Archdiocese has already received a large amount of protest. Over a quarter of the clusters refused to submit a recommendation at all. One cluster consists of Holy Name, Saint Theresa's, Saint John's and Sacred Heart in the West Roxbury/Roslindale area. Instead of recommending a parish to close, the three churches agreed to help Sacred Heart pay its monthly bills in exchange for being allowed to remain open. Other parishes sent Bishop O'Malley written pleas or held prayer vigils in hopes that their churches would not close.

O'Malley and his staff of vicars faced no light task. They tried to keep open the parishes with thriving schools attached, parishes in poor areas or areas with large immigrant populations. But the fact remained that the Archdiocese needed to consolidate so as to better serve parishioners. The Archdiocese's goal has been to reconfigure as efficiently with as little pain for parishioners as possible. Each parish that has been slated for closing can appeal the decision to Bishop O'Malley, and then to the Vatican. Although it is highly unlikely that any of the decisions will be reversed.

Undoubtedly, church closings will bring about pain within parishes. This is both saddening and painful for Catholics, yet the focus must be put on the fact that religion has little to do with an actual physical building and more to do with faith.

Congratulations Ying!
From All of Us
We're Proud of You!
The Lang Family &
Relatives

"Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest"
-Mark Twain

Meredith,
Way to go! Have fun in Chicago.
-Debbie and Scott

Congratulations Dry!

Love,

Da Braders

New school assignment plans rile parents

By Aaron Sunstein, II
Staff Writer

At the start of this academic year, the Boston Public Schools' administration began a yearlong process to review the way students are assigned to schools. Under the current plan, created in 1989, the school system is divided into the very arbitrary North, South, and East zones. Parents can choose from any of the schools in the zone where they reside. But some parents are unhappy with the system, which allows for large numbers of students to be bused around the city, and favor a return to "neighborhood" schools, where students would have to attend the school closest to their residence.

The current assignment plan has its roots in the tumultuous year of 1974, when U.S. District Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. took control of student assignment in the Boston Public Schools after finding that the School Committee deliberately assigned minority students to segregated and inferior schools. Boston became a national symbol of racial unrest as pictures of angry mobs in South Boston pelting rocks at buses carrying black children circulated the nation. A strong and long lasting campaign to stop court-ordered busing followed, led mostly by parents of white students from South Boston, but vestiges of Garrity's busing plan remain in place today.

As part of the ongoing review process, community forums headed by a prestigious task force are being held around the city. Members include pastors, educators and BPS parents. In April, they released their recommendations and proposals (available at http://boston.k12.ma.us/assignment/default.asp), all of which involve changing the current zone structure to allow parents less flexibility in school choice.

For many, the problem with the new proposals is that parents in predominantly minority districts will only be able to choose less popular, failing schools. In one new six-zone model, for instance, parents in parts of Mattapan and Dorchester would be able to choose only one elementary school that is popular, while seven others in that area are unpopular. In four plans, the same area would have no schools that placed in the top quarter of city MCAS scores. "I would love to send my son to a school up the street, but I prefer that he get a quality education," said Ruthann Richardson in *The Boston Globe*. "I pay my taxes like everyone else, so why don't we all have the best quality schools in our neighborhoods?" For other parents, however, the new proposals do not go far enough to eliminate busing. They believe that neighborhood schools promote tight-knit schools and parent involvement.

Feelings about busing remain sharply racially divided decades after Garrity desegregated the school system. Most African-American and Hispanic parents strongly favor busing while most white parents advocate neighborhood schools. At recent community forums held as part of the review process, *The Boston Globe* has reported that white West Roxbury parents "reacted angrily" to the new proposal, with one calling the proposals "garbage" because they did not involve enough busing. In contrast, minority parents in Roxbury jeered Michael Flaherty, a pro-neighborhood school city council member, as well as Superintendent Payzant, threatening lawsuits if one of the new proposals is instituted because they rely too heavily on busing.

In the past decade a multitude of court decisions have reversed affirmative action and busing programs. Two cases in the Supreme Court during the 1990s, *Board of Education of Oklahoma City* v. *Dowell* and *Freeman v. Pitts*, made it easier for school districts to be released from desegregation and busing orders. Unlike in 1974, courts have recently begun making the distinction between "de jure" segregation, caused by the government, and "de facto" segregation, which occurs through residency. Closer to home, the first U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the use of race as a factor for admission to Boston Latin School in 1998. If the trend continues, in two years many more Boston students will be attending schools in their neighborhoods. But no matter what the task force, the school committee and the superintendent decide, it is evident that not everyone will be pleased. It is also still unclear what, if any, implications the new assignment plan will have on school quality in a district where the federal government has labeled 47 of 139 schools-low performing. Though the decision was originally due in early June, all of the controversy has caused it to be delayed until August or September. As the next school year approaches, parents should be aware of the school department's course of action, which will determine the future of thousands of students.

In Memoriam: Chris Manning

By Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I
Contributing Writer

Christopher W. Manning, on the morning of April 30, took part in a catastrophe that ultimately cost him his life. The details of exactly what happened that morning alone are not completely known, just that Chris encountered a former acquaintance near East Boston High School and a conflict ensued. A police officer observed a heated argument between the two, only to arrive to find the girl critically injured and Chris in retreat while injuring himself. Beyond that, there are conflicting reports of exactly what the officers and people in the area saw, or the timing of all that happened. Both the *Boston Globe* and the *Herald* were inconsistent in their description of what transpired, making a complete account of events impossible to put together. The acquaintance was released from the hospital a few days later, but Chris was not so fortunate, and passed away on May 1.

The impetus behind this whole tragedy is not yet understood, and it is quite possible that it may never be completely known because the only person who would have been able to explain it, is no longer with us. Hypothesizing about his motives and what might have driven him to the point where he would do something so drastic adds insult to injury, demeans his memory and serves no purpose but to reopen wounds caused by his sudden departure.

The most important thing to point out is one that has largely been ignored by every major publication and news network that has addressed this incident; that Christopher Manning was first and foremost a human being, and a great one at that, not some anonymous sullen teenager. He was a son, a brother and a good friend; someone many looked up to as a shining example of what you can be when you push yourself and accept nothing less than to live to your full potential. Chris was a brilliant writer and one who fell in love with all types of history, particularly military history. Mr. Kaufman always spoke of him with the highest regard, even when Chris was no longer in his classes, never failing to share a few comments of praise of one of his best students.

One might recall that somewhere along the lines of the newspaper articles about him, it was mentioned that he was on the track team. A massive understatement if there ever was one, because frankly without Chris, track in the last few years would have been a shadow of itself. He was not only a captain, he was the heart of the boys' team; without him there would be no one to chase Pastore through the halls, to come up with hilarious songs to sing, treat the boys' Varsity team to pizza just for fun and turn distance runs into literal wild goose chases. To many of the guys on the team, Chris was more than just some tall skinny guy with a mischievous grin, he was a close friend, almost like a brother and easily a mentor to those with similar interests—especially once he aced his AP tests and got accepted into the Naval Academy. One of the fondest memories I have of being on the track team is of the Outdoor Track State Coaches Relays in 2003. I remember wandering the area around Andover High School with Chris and the other guys, playing games with whatever we found, and of course Chris' suggestion that we follow a forest path until we discover a new animal. Many are the inside jokes and wry comments that he initiated, most of which I either can't write here or that you wouldn't understand, but nonetheless things that can still bring a smile to the faces of the guys who knew him.

It wasn't apparent while he was still on the team, but when he occasionally came back from the Naval Academy, it was only a matter of minutes before every one of his former teammates would flock to him to hear his new exploits, trade stories and jokes as if he had never left. I rarely ever see someone whose arrival can induce wide-eyed wonder in those he left behind, but Chris did it every time.

I think that all of his friends, especially those on the track team, will agree with me when I say that while he might have passed away from this world, Christopher Manning will never fade from our memories or from our prayers.

Econ goes to Disney

By Kassandra Skipper, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Few know about it, but Boston Latin School has an award-=winning Economics Team. Since the beginning of February, the famed Mr. Bonds has had his economics classes play a business simulation called JATITAN.

JA TITAN is an online business management simulation that challenges its players to make the same decisions big-time CEO's make every day about their companies. Each team invests in an imaginary product, "Holo-generators", set a price, determine production levels and decide on marketing, capital investment, and research and development expenditure. They are then ranked by a "Performance Index", which is a formula combining: retained earnings, supply and demand potential, productivity, market share, and growth.

The competition started with 176 teams representing different schools from Eastern Massachusetts. They were divided into teams of three and were divided into 22 different industries of either seven or eight teams. Over a seven-week period from February 12 to April 1, the teams competed against each other entering one decision per week. After this round, the top three teams advanced to the semi-final round that ran from April 5 to April 8.

During the semi-final round, teams entered two decisions per day. After this semi-final round the top teams from each industry "the elite eight" advanced to compete for the championship in an exciting live competition at M.I.T Sloan School on Thursday, April 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Boston Latin was proud to send two teams to compete.

As Latin School is notorious in academic competitions, we stole the show placing first and second. The first place team was made up of Mike Moran (I), Johnny Pimentel (I) and Brian Nowak (I). The second place team included Felipe Paes (I), Nick Michaud (I), and Mary Le (I).

For the next round, the two teams were combined with Ruibing Wang (I) and Mike Proia (I) to qualify for regionals. Once again team Boston Latin came out on top, making them one of the top two teams from the East coast. On Wednesday, May 19, our ECON team established themselves as the best in the East and qualified for the National JA TITAN competition. On June 28 they will travel to Disney World for the "Disney Duel" to compete with young economists from all over the country. It is an all-expenses-paid trip complete with $100 spending money and park passes.

Over the course of the competition, the young TITANS have learned a little bit about the world of business and a lot about working as a team to come up with the best strategy. These busy seniors have prom, graduation and all the festivities of senior week to look forward to as well as a fun-filled five-day trip to Disney World; that is not a bad note to leave on. So keep an eye out on the bulletin and keep the team in your thoughts. With any luck, the TITANS will strategize their way to the top again!

Congratulations to Ana Louise Leary. Best Wishes at McGill University!
Love,
Mama, Papa, Kathleen, and Vovó Jacintha

KK vs. DD: The Delicate Donut Dilemma



BY FRANKLINE HO, II

Krispy Kreme

By Bryan Newbold, I
Contributing Writer

Of all the wonderfully unhealthy foods in the world, Original Glazed Krispy Kreme donuts are by far the most stupefying and artery-clogging, yet at the same time they are worth every heart-harming bite. Not every donut is worth shortening your life span for; Krispies definitely are. Beyond the assets of flavor and texture (Krispy Kremes, unlike the majority of donuts, are based on a leavened formula containing yeast, which gives them a tender, supple fluffiness that other inferior donuts lack), there is a package of atmosphere, presentation, style, and childhood wonder that accompanies every pastry. Other donut competitors, namely Dunkin' Donuts, have little to offer in comparison. Bloated and dry pastries, the unappetizing presentation of product, and an overall lack of zest are the fatal flaws of "Dunkies." This hometown wannabe truly captures the infamous New England traits of miserliness and poor human interaction. Dunkin' Donuts stores might as well be vending machines.

At Krispy Kreme, on the other hand, not only are you getting a better donut, but you are also getting a magical adventure on par with Disney World or Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. If you have never visited a Krispy Kreme franchise, you are missing out. You get to watch the birth of each pastry as donut after donut makes its way through a mechanical masterpiece with about as many moving parts as a robotic car factory and a calories-per-minute output of several developing nations combined. Stepping into the shop, you are greeted by the beautiful machine itself, enclosed in Plexiglas, hurrying little proto-donuts through the steps to their creation. You can watch every step of the process, from the dough ring plopper, through the oven, into the oil bath, over the flipper, through the glazing waterfall, and finally down the conveyor belt to a friendly representative handing out samples. Take one. It's free. And it's as good as it gets, still hot and moist. It is as fresh as squeezing cow's milk right into your mouth. On a related note, Krispy Kremes don't go bad; that's part of the magic. They're best when still warm, but you can leave them sitting around for a couple of days and they're still great, and just as soft on the inside as when brand new.

There are more than a dozen varieties of Krispy Kreme donuts, but the Original Glazed is the one true Krispy Kreme. There is no other. After eating a solid dozen glazed (this is not for the uninitiated—start out with half a dozen the first time, and work your way up to the big one-two), the body is placed in deep euphoria. It's like lying in a vat of hot oil, then being glazed from head to toe in pure Nirvana. Deep down you feel a warm core of delicious pastry, like a giant multi-thousand calorie teddy bear. Try all you might, no number of Dunkin' Donuts are ever going to give you a bliss that complete.

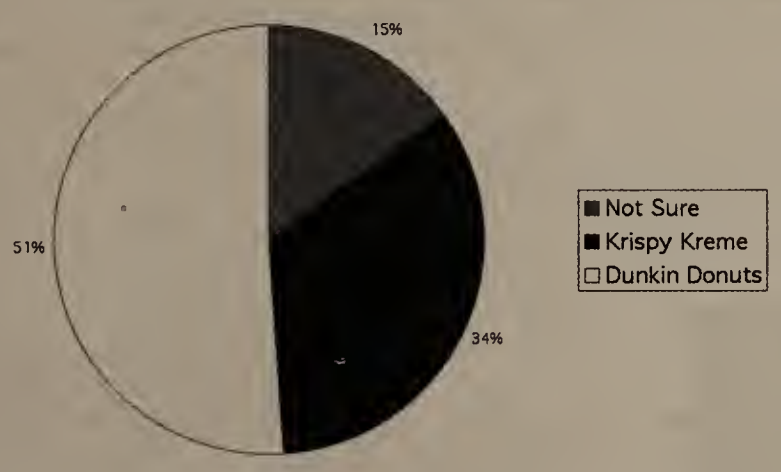
Dunkin' Donuts

By Lydia Downing, I
Contributing Writer

There's a new donut shop in town. Flashy signs, donuts made fresh in the window, and a known brand name can only mean one thing—Krispy Kreme has moved to Boston. When I first heard about the arrival, I was indifferent. I knew that no new donut shop could change my love for the delicious coffee, donuts, bagels, muffins and breakfast sandwiches that are sold at Dunkin' Donuts. Unfortunately, I was sadly unaware of how easily swayed my fellow Bostonians were.

My disdain for Krispy Kreme all began when someone brought a box into school for a breakfast party instead of a promised box of delicious bite-sized munchkins. I was disappointed, but decided to try a Krispy Kreme anyway. I've heard how amazing they were. Well, my disappointment quickly turned to disgust as I bit into the sugary and greasy mess. I could feel the fat seeping into my arteries. I felt nauseous, and I knew that a heart attack was on its way. After the illness passed, I noticed certain classmates were eating four or five at a time. I was shocked—I could barely swallow half of one.

Which type of donut do you prefer?



I went home and did my research on the Krispy Kreme and Dunkin Donuts websites, and verified my suspicions. Krispy Kreme donuts are horrible for you. Just one of their original glazed has 18 percent of the fat you're supposed to have in a day, compared to the 12 percent of the glazed Dunkin' Donut. On average, Krispy Kreme Donuts contain 24.2 percent of the daily fat you're supposed to have, compared to Dunkin's 19.5 percent. Also, as previously mentioned, Krispy Kreme donuts taste lighter, so the people who can stand them tend to eat more in one sitting. My friend who chose to eat eight donuts at once unknowingly consumed almost 200 percent of his daily fat. To add insult to injury, every single type of Krispy Kreme donut contains cholesterol, on average four percent, compared to only one type of Dunkin Donut that contains any at all. In short, Krispy Kreme donuts are heart-clogging little fat pills. And what if you don't want a donut at all? At Dunkin's you have the choice of a variety of healthier bagels, muffins, croissants and sandwiches.

If that isn't enough to sway you, consider this. Dunkin Donuts started in Massachusetts. They are the hometown favorite, the Red Sox of donuts if you will. Krispy Kreme, on the other hand, with their new, flashy exterior and lack of talent at what they do (i.e., making donuts), are closer to the much-hated Yankees.

Krispy Kreme was started in the south, shortly after the Civil War. My question: what other part of the country has a strange fixation on misspelling words by replacing "c"s with repeated "k"s? I rest my case.

Still not convinced? That's ok. We will all see who the Red Sox-hating, confederate-loving fat guzzlers are at the fifth year reunion. The waist line will say it all. "

Forum Question

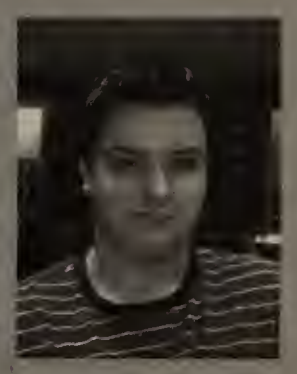
Which type of donut do you prefer?



"Krispy Kreme. Because it's my sugar fix."
—Natasha Ramanayake, I



"Dunkin' Donuts. Because it's everywhere."
—Jimmy Chow, II



"Krispy Kreme. They taste like fried dough."
—Mike Molinari, III



"Krispy Kreme. Because it's sweeter."
—Clara Lucien, IV



"Dunkin' Donuts. I'm more used to them."
—Terry Diviacchi, V



"Dunkin' Donuts. Krispy Kreme is way too sweet."
—Libby Shrobe, VI

PHOTOS BY FRANKLINE HO, II, AND QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, VI

Sudan: Never Again, All Over Again

BY LISA JING, III
STAFF WRITER

In a patch of arid desert land along the Sudanese-Chadian border, riders on horseback arrive at a village near dusk. Weapons in hand, they set to work "purging" the community of its dark-skinned Christian and animist inhabitants – relentlessly killing men, burning homes, and raping women. By sun-up, the only sounds that remain are the haunted cries and moans of survivors as they lean over the carcasses of dead relatives.

Unfortunately, this scene is not a bloody extract from a film à la Mel Gibson's *Passion*, nor is it an example of historical genocide. The ethnic cleansing occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan is as real and modern as news of Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's suspected clandestine nuptials, which seems to be the only news piece – capricious as it is – capturing international attention as of late. Yet, ask any passerby on the street their opinion of the United States' and Europe's lack of involvement in African territories, and the majority of them will respond sheepishly, thinking, "There's ethnic cleansing going on in Sudan? Where's Sudan?"

Not surprising, considering the international community has always had a great talent for ignoring genocidal activity in north-central Africa.

Since 1983, more than two million people in Sudan have perished at the hands of the *janjaweed*, the Muslim militia working in partnership with the Sudanese government in Khartoum, arbitrarily targeting such ethnic groups as the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa. In addition to land raids, aerial bombardment and scorched-earth tactics have been used to brutally exterminate citizens. Last year, the *janjaweed*'s campaign spread to Darfur, a region in western Sudan, where "the number one humanitarian drama in the world," according to the United Nations' emergency relief coordinator, Jan Egeland, is taking place.

Yet, despite these daily accounts of the *janjaweed*'s brutality – of village men lined up on the road to be shot, one by one, in the neck – the genocide in Sudan has received little attention on the international front. This neglect on the part of the global community has resulted in Sudan absurdly being granted a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Commission, even as hundreds of people perish daily under the Khartoum regime. In protest, the United States' delegation left the conference upon hearing that Sudan had won re-election; however, apart from this momentary stand, the U.S. has remained more or less uninvolved in Sudanese affairs.

Why is it that America, a nation that loves to be "heroic" in the face of Middle Eastern issues, is now turning a blind eye? The inherent avarice and self-absorption that drives the United States, and other nations, to act is disgusting and condemnable. A harsh declaration, to be sure, but for a fellow nation to stand by and ignore the daily slaughter of innocent civilians is a slight against the country's integrity. There is no doubt that the Khartoum regime is committing an inexcusable crime. However, as the Sudanese government's poor reputation has already been established, no solution will arise from dwelling on its cruelty. Instead, all able nations who can intervene must do so at once. The International Crisis group has already proposed a plan to address the Sudanese emergency – now, the next step is to actually carry this plan out.



COURTESY OF WWW.INSART.COM/SUDAN

Although individual action may seem trivial in the face of the Sudan Genocide, any action – no matter how small, or how local – will ultimately prove effective in creating a collective voice for change and reform. After all, one of the biggest tragedies to arise from the Sudanese genocide – apart from the millions of lives lost – is the ignorance that overwhelms the international community. Even picking up a newspaper or choosing to stay informed about the crisis will slowly ease Sudan into a better position; if each individual were to do his part – to keep up with the news, to write to his state government, to inform all his friends that yes, there is actually a large-scale genocide going on in Africa right now – instead of wondering about the newest installment of a television sitcom, then maybe the crisis would end sooner. If America truly is a nation that represents the people's voices, where are the people's voices now? Why are they not gathering up a dust storm and rushing to the capital to demand that their government send aid to a suffering nation? It all boils down to ignorance. Terrible, rock-hard ignorance. The only way to change this downward spiral into which the United States, along with other nations, has fallen is for its people – the flesh and blood of the nation – to take charge.

Ten years ago, when the crisis of the Rwandan genocide broke out, the international community was at a loss for solutions. Many nations claimed that they were "unable" to stop the violence, while others scurried about to throw together a makeshift plan for action. Though fellow nations were left shocked by the magnitude of the Rwanda genocide, the press coverage on the affair soon diminished, and the severity of the situation faded away from the public eye. In the years that followed, officials from around the world fell all over themselves apologizing for their inaction, once again making that oft-heard vow of "never again." It is quite shameful, then, for the entire world to be witnessing a similar crisis in Sudan, and standing by as helpless as a decade ago.

I feel..*Pretty?*

BY QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, VI
STAFF WRITER

"The Swan offers ugly ducklings the chance to transform themselves into a beautiful swan," says reality TV show *The Swan*'s guide at TVTome.com. The "ugly ducklings" are the contestants, women unhappy with their looks and, consequently, with their lives. The show, which claims to be the "#1 makeover show in America," enrolls contestants and, with the help of a few plastic surgeons and other professionals, takes away these women's worries by changing them — "changing them" being the regular facelift, liposuction and implants. After performing all this surgery on the poor woman's body, they have this big ceremony where the contestants look into a mirror, gasp, act surprised, and usually start to cry. The really good products then get to go to a beauty pageant to pit the quality of their surgery against that which others have undergone. But the contestants who don't get chosen for the pageant end up back at square one—unhappy, rejected, probably crying, just as before, the only difference being that they've now been humiliated on national TV.

The message that this show puts across is negative — you can only be happy with yourself when you've been given a makeover. People, especially kids, are already bombarded with messages like these all the time. Supermodels, actresses and entertainers smile and tell you, "Look at me. I'm skinny; I've got huge breast implants, nice hair and a beautiful face! No wonder I'm living such a great life!" Their faces and bodies are all over TV shows, commercials, newspapers, magazines and billboards. Is it any wonder that people resort to having plastic surgery on national TV in order to look like what they think is perfect, and belong? Or that 5000 teenagers in the U.S. alone commit suicide annually, often due to feelings of rejection? Or that up to one in ten young women suffers from an eating disorder, often trying to reach the ultimate slimness that supermodels make look so easy?



COURTESY WWW.GOOGLE.COM

The fact is that *The Swan* has received a lot of criticism, but it's one of the few reality shows that actually shows something about, well, reality. Those who go to the extremes like the contestants of *The Swan* say more about the reality we live in than does a show like *Survivor*. And what they say should make us all uncomfortable.

War Over Images

BY REBECCA ADAMS, II
STAFF WRITER

I stood watching the video in my friend's room, my eyes glued to the computer screen. I wanted to look away, but I couldn't. The images were blurry, and at times it was hard to see what was going on, but the screams from the speaker made it perfectly clear. I was watching the video of the decapitation of Nick Berg, an American construction worker in Iraq. The video carried a voiceover that ended with a warning:

"Another message for the collaborator and traitor Pervez Musharraf; we say to you, we cannot wait to welcome your soldiers. By Allah, we will target them before the Americans and will avenge the blood of our brothers in Wana and others. As for you, mothers and wives of the American soldiers, we say to you that we offered the American Administration the chance to exchange this prisoner for some of the prisoners in Abu-Ghraib, but they refused. We say to you, the dignity of the Muslim men and women in the prison of Abu Ghraib and others will be redeemed by blood and souls. You will see nothing from us except corpse after corpse and casket after casket of those slaughtered in this fashion. So kill the infidels wherever you see them, take them, sanction them, and await them in every place."

This unsettling video came soon after many disturbing pictures of the inhumane treatment of Iraqis in American prisons were released. The prisoners were humiliated, abused and photographed with American soldiers smiling alongside. The question here is not which is worse—the Nick Berg killing or the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners—but whether or not this graphic material should be available to the public eye.

About a month before the pictures from Abu Ghraib were released, pictures of American flag-draped coffins at Dover Air Force Base were scattered on the covers of *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and other well-respected newspapers. There was much controversy over these pictures due to an order banning such images that dates back to the Vietnam War. This order was once again enforced at the beginning of the most recent war in Iraq. "There will be no arrival ceremonies for, or media coverage of, deceased military personnel returning to or departing from Ramstein [Germany] airbase or Dover [Del.] base, to include interim stops," the Defense Department said last March on the eve of the Iraq war.

The reason for this order is fear of losing support for the war. The images of coffin after coffin being shipped home to grieving families make the abstract fatalities of war just that much more real. The more of these images people see, the more overwhelmed they become with the cost of the war the U.S. is fighting, and the less likely they are to support that war. The restriction of these images is therefore in many ways a manipulation, a ploy to hide the real costs of the war in Iraq from the American public.

At the same time, many would argue that it is unfair to the families of the fallen soldiers to show pictures of their coffins. The family of Nick Berg, too, has expressed great sadness over the fact that there is a video of their son's gruesome death being viewed around the world. The pictures of the humiliated prisoners of Abu Ghraib shed unflattering light on oft-admired American soldiers.

Yet even though these images are unpleasant, they should never be censored. People who do not wish to subject their eyes to the photos and videos are not forced to, and no matter how upset victims' families become, it is important that all information be available to the public. Once we allow the president, or anyone else for that matter, to censor information that we, the public, are entitled to see, there is no end to what else they can keep from us.

In short, these pictures and videos are the reality of war, and if we are unable to handle this reality, then maybe we are unable to handle the war itself.

Where Credit is Due

By Meredith Garry, I
News Editor

Here at Boston Latin School, a lot of importance is given to names, titles, statistics and numbers. We're always on top in the MCAS, record numbers of students attend prestigious universities and colleges, our median SAT scores are fabulous, and so on. We are constantly fighting budget cuts and other bureaucratic difficulties in order to hold our own as one of the most competitive high schools in the nation. This competitive spirit and these high expectations can push students to excel. But at the same time, many students end up sacrificing crucial aspects of their education in order to have the highest possihle GPA.

Specifically, I am referring to the Facing History and Ourselves Course. Alum Sheldon Seevak (1946) created an endowment which pays the salary for the teacher of the class, and each year he donates money to purchase some supplies and to fund the learntoquestion.com website. The class is undoubtedly one of the most demanding at the school. This year, students were required to read *A Problem from Hell*, Samantha Power's Pulitzer Prize-winning text on genocide. In addition, students are required to post on other outside texts, classroom lessons, and discussions. Projects this year have included teaching an entire class on groups targeted during the Holocaust and interviewing older people who were alive during World War II. But far from being "that class about the Holocaust" as some refer to it, it is also a class about many important events and phenomena in human history. Students study the Civil Rights movement in the United States, the Milgram experiment, war crimes, and genocides ranging from the slaughter of Turkish Armenians to the systematic annihilation of the Herero tribe in Africa to the Rwandan genocide occurring just ten years ago. Students examine how these events were allowed to occur by the wider world community, and study what could have been done to stop them.

Obviously, Facing History is not your average high school history class. It requires students to read constantly, to keep up with current events, attend lectures outside of school and to question what they know and have been taught. Most importantly, it teaches students to think analytically, a skill quite undervalued at this great institution and essential to being a good citizen. When it comes to grade calculation, however, Facing History is given no special designation. Clearly, this has not deterred the two hundred-odd students who apply to take the course every year. But the lack of honors credit does turn away some students. For example, of the eight Franklin Medal Winners this year, only one chose to take Facing History. Considering the fact that about a half of the senior class decided to take the class, this is a fairly large discrepancy. The lack of honors credit may be affecting the diversity of thought and academic background in the class, which is a crucial aspect of the Facing History experience.

Yet another drawback has to do with student transcripts. When a class is assigned Honors credit, it recognizes a higher standard of work. Undoubtedly, Facing History fits the criterion for an Honors class – the depth of information covered and the workload alone are on par with or above those of several other classes given Honors distinction automatically, such as second-year science classes and third- and fourth-year language classes.

In protest of the school's refusal to give Honors credit to the Facing History class, Mr. Charles Aversa chose a few years ago to withdraw the Honors credit from his own Humanities class. Says Mr. Aversa, "I knew that the rigor of the FHAO curriculum should have made it an honors level class. I did it as a protest against the denial of honors credit to a well deserving FHAO and to even the playing field in terms of reasons for applying for the two courses."

To give Facing History no special distinction from other non-Honors classes does a disservice to Facing students, their grade point averages, and the reputation of the class. The purpose of scaling grades should be to recognize extraordinary effort on behalf of the students. Facing History and Ourselves is a demanding course and requires a great deal of work from its students – and they should be rewarded for their endeavors.

ANTHRAX In Your Backyard!

By Frankline Ho, II
Staff Writer

With the war on terrorism running rampant through all major news sources, the general public has become aware of a weapon that threatens civilians rather than those actively participating in military operations. Biological weapons are seen as an increasingly serious threat to public safety. This threat is so great that the alleged presence of biological and chemical weapons, known collectively as weapons of mass destruction, was one of the major reasons for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Last year, after the anthrax scare heightened people's fears, the Department of Defense urged the general public to prepare for the worst, sending sales of duct tape and canned foods to record highs.



COURTESY OF TRIPOD.COM

The United States has advanced in its research to establish a defense against biological weaponry. So far, there are four National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBL) that have already been developed to research threatening and currently incurable airborne pathogens such as anthrax, smallpox, and the Bubonic Plague. So it is not surprising that Boston, as one of the country's most advanced biological research cities, has been slated as the location of the next NBL.

One would think that more people would be aware of the fact that this fifteen-acre laboratory is in fact being placed in the middle of South End and Roxbury. Then again, it is no surprise that the project is largely unknown. The Boston University Medical Center (BUMC), which won the contract for the NBL, has persisted in only facilitating dialogue between project coordinators, federal officials and supporters of the project – leaving out the community organizations that are against the bio-lab's construction.

In doing so, the BUMC has neglected to listen to the voices of those who face the greatest threat from the project – the residents. Even though the new Biosafety Level 4 lab will be designed with state-of-the-art safety measures, there is always the possibility of human error. If an outbreak occurs, it will be in one of the most densely populated areas of Boston. Think about it--these are airborne diseases; if they are released by some horrible circumstance, there is almost no way to prevent them from infecting the entire city.

Supporters of the bio-lab cite the fact that it will create new jobs and bring income into the city. However, that is irrelevant to the situation in this case. This is an issue of safety. Placing the health of the public at risk for the sake of keeping them safe is purely idiotic. The bio-lab can be relocated to somewhere else where its benefits outweigh its risks—namely, outside a heavily populated urban area. Seriously, who can sleep safely knowing that there are vials of Bubonic Plague in his backyard?

It's Called *WAR*

By Mark Tassinari, I
Contributing Writer

More than a year ago, the United States decided to go to war against Iraq. The President was for it, and the people, by a slim majority, were also for it. Several of our allies, such as France and Russia, who were receiving cheap oil from Saddam, were against the war. Nevertheless, Congress voted to give the president authority to go to war (so if you are against the war, then don't reelect your representatives and senators who voted for the it [ahem, Kerry...]). Congress has since voted to fund the war several times. Now, in war, certain things are going to happen: enemy soldiers, militants and terrorists are going to die; enemy civilians are going to die; buildings are going to be destroyed and people are going to suffer; U.S. soldiers are going to die. I had hoped that U.S. civilians would not die in this war, but civilian contractors rebuilding the infrastructure and generally helping the Iraqis have been brutally killed. This, too, is part of war. War is not nice. This is not the 18th century where each side lines up and takes turns shooting at the other. This is the 21st century, and *war is hell*.

Thus, when the decision is made to go into war, it had better be made carefully. Now, some people say we went to war for the wrong reasons. I disagree. Why are we fighting? First off, Iraq had defied the 17 UN resolutions prohibiting them from having weapons of mass destruction, and, since these resolutions mattered to the U.S., we had to enforce them. Now that it looks like Iraq never had any WMDs, were we unjustified, did President Bush dupe the U.S. citizens into this war? No. Boston



Latin School graduate Richard Clarke (and if you can't trust a Latin grad, who can you trust?) writes that George Tenet, the Clinton-appointed head of the CIA, repeatedly told a doubtful President Bush that the case for Iraq having WMDs was "a slam dunk." Secondly, Iraq was regularly shooting at U.S. planes patrolling the No Fly Zone over Iraq (sounds like a smoking gun to me). Thirdly, there have been a number of incidents between the U.S. and Iraq since Operation Desert Storm because in almost every war from the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage to the world wars of the 20th century, unless one power was completely destroyed, or the former enemies found reasons to become friends, another war followed. Unless we wanted to suck up to Saddam (for surely he was not going to suck up to us), why should we have waited for him to make the first move? He could easily have put a suicide bomber aboard a U.S.-bound tanker. Perhaps the most important reason for the Iraq invasion is that we are involved in a war against terrorism. Now, due to our porous borders, which no political party is willing to address for fear of losing the Latino vote, we are practically defenseless in terms of stopping terrorism here at home, never mind protecting U.S. interests abroad. Our airplane security is improving, but can we defend trains or urban gas tankers, like the ones in Boston, from suicide bombers? We cannot, so the best and only defense is a good offense. We need to keep the battle in their backyard, not ours. Furthermore, if we are successful and can turn Iraq into a democracy, we can destabilize the entire region – whose oil-billionaire rulers keep their people in line with religious fervor and anti-American and anti-Israel propaganda – by exposing the people to our ideas of democracy, secularism and tolerance.

Now, after easily defeating the Iraqis in desert warfare, we find ourselves fighting a guerilla war. U.S. casualties continue to grow, now amounting to about eight hundred dead. What do we do? Well, we can all agree that pulling out would be disastrous. So we stick it out, because if we do not our own safety will be severely jeopardized. We need to trust our troops who are actually in Iraq, for they know the real situation and how to handle it. Yes, U.S. soldiers were wrong in what they did to the Iraqi prisoners mistreated at the Abu Ghraib prison. This incident clearly shows that some public oversight is needed. Although some forceful interrogation may be necessary, the troops who committed the abuses crossed the line. They need to be severely punished to show the Iraqis that such behavior is not tolerated. However, along the same lines, the killers of Americans and of the allied civilian contractors who are helping the Iraqis—those guilty in incidents like the murders of the four contractors in Fallujuh, the beheading of Nicholas Berg, the murder of Quattrochi and more – need to be brought to justice, and the precedent needs to be set that the killing of an American or ally is a grave crime that no one will be allowed to get away with.

The Argo welcomes op-eds and letters to the editor from all members of the school community. Submissions can be sent to kamcdonald@verizon.net or impensada@aol.com. Ideas expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Argo.

Forum: Op-Ed

The Last Word

Sara Awad

Last month, President George W. Bush met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon regarding the Roadmap to Peace, ruled out the Right of Return of Palestinian refugees and gave Israel the right to keep its settlements in the West Bank. This was a major blow to the Palestinians and, as usual, did nothing more than serve the interests of Israel. The Arab-Israeli conflict has been continuing now for more than 56 years and, clearly, there are no easy answers to end the violence. However, if there is going to be a lasting promise of peace, the Israelis need to learn how to make concessions. So far, what the supposed "peace process" has offered is a "two state" solution – one militarized, racist state for Jewish people only with access to all the natural resources of Palestine, and a demilitarized state for the indigenous people of Palestine with little or no access to its own resources and separated by Israeli military bypass roads, the Wall and checkpoints.



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The Palestinians need to have their own state in all of historic Palestine, but since that is seemingly unrealistic *for now*, they must be given complete sovereignty over the territories. Bush and Sharon have persisted in postponing this effort, but it needs to be done soon. The Palestinians have already settled for a fraction of the entire land that belongs to them and have been more than flexible. Now it is the Israelis' turn to pull out their illegal settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and respect the Palestinians' human rights. The killings, checkpoints, curfews, walls, house demolitions, and tree uprootings need to end. The Palestinian refugees must be allowed to return to their homes. This right is sacred to Palestinians and has remained their fundamental objective for generations. Their determination on this issue has endured despite warfare, suffering, and political changes. One of the reasons that the Israelis refuse to grant this right is because they feel that, with an influx of Palestinian residents, Israel would no longer exist as a Jewish state. However, with Palestinian population growth of four percent and Israeli growth of just 1.6 percent, the two ethnic groups will be equal by about the year 2050 anyway. So what happens then? Do the Israelis expel more Palestinians or just commit a few more genocides? There is no ethical or legal justification for not giving Palestinians their Right of Return, and this right must be granted if any peace is to be achieved. Compensation is unacceptable because no amount of money can buy their homeland, honor, and identity. The American government must use an even-handed approach and stop taking Israel's side on everything. This means that America needs to stop sending Israel $4 billion in tax money each year, which is a sum that exceeds the amount given to the entire continent of Africa. A third of our foreign aid should not be given to .001 percent of the world's population—providing Israel with the means necessary to ethnically cleanse the indigenous Palestinians. Clearly, there is no easy solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but the occupation must go. It was unacceptable in South Africa. It was unacceptable in Algeria. And it is by all means unacceptable in Palestine.

Sharon Silverman

"The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him'" (Hamas Charter, Article 7). Hamas, as well as the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the other totalitarian gangsters who are vehemently supported by the Palestinian Arabs, has long called for the decimation of both the Jews and their Jewish state. Obviously, these organizations are not only against all Zionists (as Sara Awad states), but also against the existence of all Jews. *These unwarranted aggressors crave for the total destruction of this non-Muslim, Jewish state of Israel more than they want peace and a state of their own.* Arabs went to war with Israel in 1947, after they rejected the UN partition plan, and again in 1956 and 1967 when the "occupied lands" of today were in the Arabs' hands. Arabs murdered Jews in the 1920's and 1930's when there was no Jewish state and no "Zionist occupation force." The problem of the Palestinian Arab is not with Israel being "oppressive" but with Israel *being*.

So much crafty *dis*information to rebut, so little space. In the last exchange, Sara Awad was given a full page when I got only half. Was this anti-Israel (Jewish) bias? Or was it fear of offending a particular group, and equality be damned?

Awad first tries to make a distinction between Jews and Zionists. Martin Luther King once said, " . . . And what is anti-Zionist? It is the denial to the Jewish people of a fundamental right that we justly claim for the people of Africa and freely accord all other nations of the Globe. It is discrimination against Jews, my friend, because they are Jews. In short, it is anti-Semitism." Support for Jerusalem and Israel as the Jewish state is central to Judaism. And if the problem is the "Zionist occupiers," but not Jews (as Awad says), why are Jewish children routinely attacked by Muslim Arabs while going to school in *Europe?*

ZION. The land . . . the religion . . . the people. Having been conceived at the same moment in time – over 3300 years ago (not 100), they are inseparable. Zion is a synonym for Jerusalem/Judea/Israel. It is to Jews (not fringe Jews whom Awad quotes such as the Neturei Karta, who eulogize at Hamas funerals, work with Arafat & Farakhan, and are ostracized by nearly all other Jews) what Rome/Vatican is to the Roman-Catholic, Tibet is to the Buddhist, India is to the Hindu, Mecca/Saudi-Arabia is to the Muslim. Jerusalem has always been the Jewish capital. It is mentioned over 700 times in the Torah, but not once in the Koran. It has *never* been the capital of any Muslim/Arab entity. Jews have always prayed facing Jerusalem. Muslims pray facing Mecca. Separate Zionism from Judaism? Sooner will the sun fail to rise tomorrow. The Koran agrees with the Torah that Zion is indeed the Jewish nation that it was assigned to them by God. To see this, go to Aish.com, then type: Shaykh Palazzi.

Awad refers to the "racist state of Israel." She must first realize that Jews are not a race. There are a variety of ethnic groups that comprise the population of Israel, ranging from the thousands of dark-skinned Ethiopian Jews, to the approximately one million Muslim Arabs who also dwell there. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that allows Arab citizens, like all other Israeli citizens, to worship, vote and speak freely. Today, Arabs make up nearly 10 percent of Israel's Knesset (parliament). Not a single Jew sits in any of the 22 Arab governments. Beyond doubt, race does not characterize an Israeli or Jew.

Awad also speaks of Israel's "acts of immorality." Strangely enough, it was the Palestinian Arabs who fought alongside racist Nazi SS units in Bosnia, murdering Jews and Christian Serbs who were steadfast allies of the U.S. The Serbs remember this genocide on them. The Palestinian Arabs also sided with America's nemesis, the communist Soviet Union, during the 40-year Cold War. Nor have Arab countries been tolerant of their Jewish inhabitants. Jews were forced to flee the 22 Arab countries because of their fascist intolerance and apartheid prejudice.

Once the facts are known, the case for Israel is made. To see these facts, go to Middleeastfacts.com, Hinduunity.org, danielpipes.org, Rotter.net/israel, israelactivism.com, palestinefacts.org, wnd.com, and jewishworldreview.com

Sara Awad and Sharon Silverman are members of Class I

Editors' Note

All year, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has played itself out on the pages of our newspaper. Beginning with one seemingly innocuous op-ed about a wall, the situation spiraled somewhat out of control, producing thousands of words of text and consuming countless hours of our time. It has caused frantic phone calls, long discussions about where that ever-elusive "line" of propriety is located, and at least one full-blown moral crisis. The running feud between Sharon Silverman and Sara Awad has become in many ways a paradigm of the broader conflict—complete with passionate opinions, bitter invective, immovable positions and, yes, a good deal of hatred. For the editors, the whole thing has been a headache and a half but also a huge learning experience. Many of the views we have printed have been extreme, some would say downright offensive. We have winced at phrases like "Zionist-controlled media" and "Palestinians fomenting their usual, predictable trouble." Yet despite our qualms, all along we have made the decision to let these views run unsanitized. We did so not so much out of concerns about free speech, but also because we felt that to do otherwise would have been a disservice to our readers. We wanted them to be able to see both sides in their unvarnished form and to judge for themselves, to understand the real motives behind this bloody, hate-driven conflict. Perhaps we have published things that had no place in the civil discourse, but the conflict in the Middle East is most emphatically not a civil discourse, and we wanted our readers to understand that, as all this has made us come to understand it on a guttural level.

We tried throughout to be as even-handed as possible, putting our personal opinions aside and treating both sides equally. This was no easy task. We tried to stick to the rule that any opinion was acceptable, but outright misstatements of facts were not. We found, though, as we attempted to fact-check these articles, that there is no one accepted set of facts out there. Take any assertion, and you will find websites and newspaper articles both backing it up and refuting it. There are many versions, it seems, but no real truth.

In her first article, Sharon used the word "Palestinians" several times, each time putting it in quotation marks. The quotation marks were removed. When Sara wrote her first response, she put the word "Israel" in quotation marks every time she used it. The quotation marks were removed. The incident was telling, so emblematic of the wider problem—sadly, as long as two peoples don't recognize each other's right to exist outside quotation marks, it doesn't seem likely that they'll ever stop killing each other. And as long as there are large numbers of people on both sides for whom peace is not the first priority, peace will not come. All year, we have been careful to note that the opinions of Sharon and Sara (or of any contributor, for that matter) do not represent the opinions of the *Argo*. Sharon has said, over and over, that the land of Israel-Palestine has belonged to her people for thousands of years and that they have a right to live there—and she is right. And Sara has said that the land has belonged to *her* people for thousands of years, and that *they* have a right to live there—and she is right, too. Yet for the past fifty years, all being right has earned for either side is death and destruction, suicide bombings and houses flattened by tanks. Perhaps we are naïve, but it seems to us that it may be time to stop focusing on who's right and who's entitled to what, and instead to think about what will work, what will actually bring some peace to the region's beleaguered citizens.

- Erin, Katie, Muching

Valedictorian's Farewell



By Erin Durkin, I
Valedictorian, Class of 2004

Well guys, it's been a long six...no, too cliche...

We loved it, we hated it, but ultimately...no, been done before...

I think that ten years down the road, when we all look back on.....no, no, no, no, no.

You'd think that after writing two goodbye notes and a speech, after listening to all my teachers say goodbye and try their hand at giving moral advice, after pouring my heart out all over the backs of those godforsaken senior pictures, and reading everyone's sappy online journal entries reflecting on the last six years, the end of an era, the past, the future...you'd think I'd be able to dash off a poignant, witty yet meaningful goodbye in five minutes flat. Alas, not so much. I guess the reason it is so difficult is that all the cliches are true. It has been a long six years. We have been through the good and the bad, and we've made it, and that is a huge accomplishment. We have made amazing friendships that have sustained us through it all. And it is bittersweet, because we won't miss the silly rules or the all-nighters, but we will miss the people we met, the classes we enjoyed, the teachers we loved.

And beyond that, what is there to say? What have we taken away from Boston Latin School, what have we learned here? I guess I can only speak for myself. I've learned multiple ways to insult people in English, Spanish, Chinese, and German. That rules are made to be selectively enforced. That teachers and administrators are human beings, and have a lot less power when you don't let yourself be intimidated by them. How to sleep in every conceivable position, with my eyes open if necessary. To embrace the stress instead of trying to fight it. Because I'm most satisfied when I'm insanely overextended, because I thrive off chaos. From my perspective, anyway, it's best to get involved, to find something (or multiple things) that you love and throw yourself into them wholeheartedly—you'll meet wonderful people, you'll feel responsible and accomplished, and the fact that it will help you get into college is just an added bonus. Maybe you'll sleep a little less, but that's ok. I learned (and my only regret is that it took me a few years to learn) that it's crucially important not to center your life wholly on schoolwork. To let your life spiral out of control every once in a while, if only because that perfect combination of caffeine and adrenaline in your veins can actually make you feel completely exhilarated.

So to the underclassmen: Live your life to the fullest; stay up all night if you have to.

To the Class of 2004: Congratulations. Surviving six (or four) years at this place is no small achievement. There's no guarantee things are going to be easy in the future, but we've all had our baptism by fire, and we're all in a much better position now to deal with things as they come.

To my family: Thank you, so much, for everything. For the support—from proofreading my sixie year papers to running me to an obscure craft store after I melted my final product last month—I couldn't have done it without you, and I love you.

To my teachers—Dr. Carroll, Ms. Shevlin, Mr. Balicki (for the arguments and for informing me of my joylessness); Ms. Freeman (for making me think, for Europe, for being my late-night fact checker, advice-giver, and gossip buddy); Mr. Montague (for all the help and the endless patience), Ms. Moran (for being absolutely awesome), and all of you, I hope you know who you are, who challenged me, engaged me, whose classes I looked forward to everyday.

To my friends, all of you, you know who you are: You guys are the most bizarre, out-there, and altogether amazing group of people I have ever encountered. You got me through this, made me laugh, put up with my obsessive-compulsive tendencies. And we had a lot of fun, and I love you guys, and thank you.

I don't have nearly enough room to thank everyone I want to, all the people without whom I never would have gotten through this (and there are so many) so to everyone I left out—thank you!

Salutatorian's Farewell



By Henry Wu, I
Salutatorian, Class of 2004

These past years have been tedious. They've been harsh. We've all been tried and tested, pushed to our limits. As we leave, I leave you with things I've learned over my stay at Boston Latin School. I'm sure many of you share the same thoughts.

Procrastination keeps life interesting.

If there's anything I've learned while being at Boston Latin, I've learned how to procrastinate. I'll get my work done, but I'll wait until the last minute to do it. Even as I write, I'm trying to meet an *Argo* deadline. There was never a night that I fell asleep before two. I've pulled my share of all-nighters and have gone to bed come sunup. I've brought it on myself, I'll admit. If I really wanted to, I could have finished my homework, eaten dinner, and done some studying all before ten pm. But what fun is that? Working at insane hours in the morning kept me "livin' la vida loca," but it gave me a buzz. I don't know about you, but I work best under pressure. I guess everyone is different, and what's fit for me (namely, pushing things 'til the last minute) may not be fit for someone else. If you're going to procrastinate, at least make it worthwhile. Go do something interesting. Go make some memories for yourself. Life is short. As high school seniors, a quarter of our lives (more or less) have already passed. Think that we're in the prime of our lives now. Go take advantage of the time you have. *Carpe diem*, as the phrase goes. Imagine what we'd miss out on by studying all the time. We'd miss all the good times we ever had, any fond memories we created, and it would have sucked the fun right out of life. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that there's more to life than just homework. Do whatever makes you happy. Enjoy life.

"Friend" is not a word to be tossed around like a beer can. It's more like a fine wine.

As we grow up, we define and redefine our friendships. What friendship means to us now may not be what friendship meant to us a year ago, or two years ago, or even three. When you were in kindergarten, your best friend was the only person who could tie your shoelaces for you. When you were in fifth grade, your best friend was the person who made sure you weren't left locked in the museum after the field trip. As a sixie, your best friend was the person who figured out that it was just a dumb idea to carry all your books around the entire year. And now, as we graduate, our definitions of true friends have evolved, have developed, and have become more meaningful. Look around. You could be the most popular person in school, but how many people do you consider your true friends? How many are you close to? How many are there that you could run to in a time of need? Which of your buddies won't run off and ditch you for the first hot girl (or guy) that they see? The rich man isn't the one who can bathe in his wealth. He isn't the most popular one. He's the one with a good friend. I say cherish the friendships you've forged during the years you've spent at Boston Latin. Know which friendships are worth preserving. They could last a lifetime. It's all up to you.

Being Asian doesn't help when you want to dance. It only helps when you do math.

After numerous attempts, including Mystical Night and the Sophomore Semi, I've come to the conclusion that I have no groove. My hips just don't sway, my feet stay glued to the floor, and I have a tendency to keep a goofy grin on my face in my vain attempt to "dance." The only dances I've "mastered" are the Macarena and the Cotton-Eye Joe. I'm not going to be a dancer. Props to those who CAN dance. Nevertheless, why let that stop me? Never restrain yourself from doing something new. (Keep it legal, please.) You may look like a fool, but so what? Dance like no one's watching you. Did any of you catch Just 6 at the Asian Night performance? If not, ask someone who did; they'll tell you how good we were. As we head out to college, this is the chance to start afresh. It's an opportunity to take chances where we never dared to venture. To those who are reluctant to leave, here's your chance to prove that you've got the balls to make it in life. To those eager to rush out, you're already one step out the door.

So, as we come to conclude our lives as high school students, we begin our lives as graduates. All the hard work paid off. All those sleepless hours spent listening to Latin. All the days lost in confusion because of AP Physics. We made it. I wish the best to all of you. Hope you go on to do great things. I wish you all well. We'll always be the Class of 2004—a group of distinct individuals who'll affect the world in various ways. Can I get an oh-four? What? Yeee-ah!

Jimmy,

Congratulations on your six successful years at Boston Latin!
Good Luck next year!
We'll miss you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Elizabeth & Daniel

Congratulations Christine!
We are so proud of all your hard work and accomplishments at Boston Latin. Always follow your heart and trust in yourself.
We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Stephen & Billy

Dear Michael,
Congratulations! You made it!!! We always knew you would. You have so much spirit and determination. There is no doubt that you will be a success in whatever you choose to do We are very proud of you!!!!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Kevin and Danny

Senior Section
Senior Spotlights

Tuyen Nguyen

By Hoang Do, I
Contributing Writer

Argo spotlight, eh? This is one of those times that I curse my laziness for not reading any of the Argo spotlights in the last six years at BLS. So what are you supposed to write anyways? But this makes me think, whoever is reading this must have no life or something. Ha! Well, back to the topic, Tuyen Nguyen. Tuyen Nguyen... We've been best friends since the third grade and we've gone to school together ever since. So, in a sense, you can say that, out of all her lousy friends, I know her best. Tuyen is one of those people who has a concentration problem. Trust me, try telling her that your one true love just died while she's driving a car and she won't even shed a tear for you. Despite all those flaws, Tuyen is one of those people you will learn to appreciate after knowing her for a while. At first you probably won't like her too much because she is not exactly the funnest [sic] person to hang around, but she is an awesome friend. She is straight-forward in what she thinks of a person, good or bad, so you don't have to worry about her badmouthing you. She doesn't make me laugh, nor do I have a lot of fun when I'm around her, but I am very glad I have a friend like Tuyen. I know that deep down inside she cares for her little friend a lot even if she doesn't say so. I'm glad the *Argo* has picked her for the Spotlight section for this issue, because a person like Tuyen deserves this recognition. But either way, remember to hide from Tuyen when you see her driving, you certainly don't want to have a car accident. Good friends or not, she still sucks at driving!

Jo Nathan Charles

By Jora Frantzis, I
Contributing Writer


INSERT CREDIT HERE

Jo Nathan Charles (why are the Jo and the Nathan separated? I don't know, he probably thinks he's cool or something) is a devoted guy who is definitely nothing short of a hard worker. Jo is not only one of the coolest people I know, but he is also incredibly smart. You may not guess that when first looking at him, but he far exceeds the assumptions people may make about him. There hasn't been a paper he has written in Greek Tradition this year that didn't make Dr. Karydas proclaim his genius to the whole class and quote some profound analysis of Ancient Greek literature he had made. Besides Jo's academic achievements, he has also made a great contribution to the football team for the past four years. Next year he will be attending Northeastern University and majoring in pre-law. Jo also has been working for Mellon City Access for two years and has been involved in several youth leadership seminars and conferences. Northeastern will be lucky to have a student like Jo Nathan who has a revolutionary mind and deep concern for our society. One of the most important principles Jo has exhibited is that he does not allow certain stereotypes to hold back his true character. Jo is a great student, an incredible advocate of youth leadership, a not-too-shabby football player, and, most of all, an awesome friend.

Katie Donahue

By Kathryn MacDonald, I
Forum Editor


INSERT CREDIT HERE

It is hard to set yourself apart in a class of 353 students. It is even harder to set yourself apart when your name is Katie, since the class of 2004 boasts "Katies" in the double digits. Yet, has done just that. She is well-known and well-liked, but by far most important is that she serves the name "Katie" well.

Katie has been a member of the Boston Latin School swim team since seventh grade and a member of the sailing team for four years. She is also a member of Class Committee and National Honors Society. Not only is Katie involved in the Boston Latin community, she also participates in many activities outside of school. She can be seen working the desk at the Y in Westie, tutoring at 'Score' or teaching sailing at Jamaica Pond.

I have known Katie since the fourth grade and we have been friends ever since. She is funny, bubbly, caring, and an all-around great friend. Next year she will be heading to Fairfield University in Connecticut, where she plans to major in Communications. Undoubtedly, she will be a success in all that she does; she brings a sense of enthusiasm to everything she endeavors, whether it be crossing streets for a Statistics project or sailing or dancing at the Prom. I am positive that she will continue to serve her name well.

Dinah Thibeault

By Bieta Andemariam. I
Contributing Writer

Dinah-Kate Hamilton Thibeault, or, as she is known by her closest friends, Face, has been my best friend for the past three years, ever since she didn't invite me to her Christmas party in the 9th grade. If you've ever met her, she's probably your best friend, too. See, Dinah is like your friend, mom, sister and therapist all rolled into one. She's got this uncanny ability to know people for an hour, and all of a sudden they're crying on her shoulder relating their life stories. People just feel comfortable around Face—maybe it's because she likes to call people "sweetie" and kiss them on their foreheads.

But don't be fooled by this maternal exterior—underneath breathes one of those dedicated, hardworking to the point of insanity, brilliant students that only Boston Latin Schhol can turn out. She's retained all of the admirable qualities imparted by Boston Latin, like dedication and willingness to work, without any of the negative qualities. She's not cutthroat competitive, she doesn't cheat and she's always willing to help me out when I don't understand Calc.

Dinah's also much involved in extracurricular activities. She's been in the Drama Club since 10th grade, specializing in costumes. She loves to sing and has been singing with the school since the 8th grade, and is now doing Concert Choir and Show Choir. Dinah's also very dedicated to her church, a relationship that began just as an accepting area where she could hang out with friends. She's been attending for six years and now spends her entire summer as a counselor at her church's camp. But the comfort of church moved beyond just being a hangout place, and now she takes comfort in her religion as well. Yet, Dinah is so easygoing, open-minded and tolerant that religion is just an aspect of who she is, not a definition.

You can't know Dinahface and not love her. We're going to miss her terribly.

Sonia Lomba

By Nilda Ramos, I
Contributing Writer


INSERT CREDIT HERE

"As long as I can walk, I can dance!" For Sonia Lomba, this quote is the most accurate description of her love and passion for dance. Most people are born crying, but there is more than enough reason to believe that Sonia danced her way into this world. Her many years of experience and her passion for dancing have not only enabled her to become a more brilliant dancer, but also a creative choreographer. Furthermore, she recently turned to poetry as an outlet to express her many thoughts and opinions and discovered yet another talent to add to the list, a list that will most certainly continue to grow in the future.

Throughout her years at Boston Latin School, Sonia has contributed her talents to many different clubs and activities, including Cape Verdean Club (CVC), T.A.G., Urban Dance Project, and Desi. As the president of CVC she was responsible for organizing events and fundraisers and choreographing the dances which the members performed at different shows. She has graced the stage with her skills at the Fashion Talent show, International Showcase, T.A.G. show, and Asian Night. This year she also took on the role of Tina Turner when she performed "Proud Mary" at the Parent Teacher Social.

In her spare time, Sonia volunteers at the Uptown Dance Center where she has studied dance since she was seven years old. A few months ago, she pursued an opportunity to be recruited by a professional dance company called NIA. She was recruited after a long week of competitive auditions. In the fall she will be attending Pine Manor College, where she will major in early childhood education. Although she aspires to become an elementary school teacher, she promises that dance, her greatest passion, will continue to be a major part of her life.

Lisa Bui

By Jora Frantzis, I
Contributing Writer

Lisa Bui, the big-booty Asian Sensation—hence the name Builicious—is by far the most entertainingly insane person I have ever met. This girl is so hilarious, she's made me piss myself in front of my boyfriend. Lisa has been one of my best friends since the 10th grade, and trust me, there's never a dull moment (maybe it's because her ADD goes untreated – just kidding). Lisa is friends with everyone in our grade and is absolutely the nicest person you'll ever meet—that is, if you don't get on her bad side. Lisa will always stand up for what she believes in, and racism is one thing she cannot tolerate. Why do you think she ended up in jail in the Bahamas? That girl was really sorry after trying to mess with LISA BUI. She will do things that people sometimes want to do, but would never actually dare to go through with (example: laying down on the floor in Filenes just because she's tired). Lisa Bui is the real class clown of '04 and I'm lucky to have known her.

Jared Sampson

By Kassandra Skipper. I
Assistant Sports Editor


INSERT CREDIT HERE

In the six long years of Boston Latin School, Jared and I go back to Dr. Neary's seventh grade History class. We've managed to stay close over the years, especially this past year, when he was one of my Stats buddies in Mr. Bunker's class. While you can count on Jared to rarely have his homework done, you can also count on a great friend who is always there to listen to you and laugh with you.

Jared is one of the kindest boys in the senior class (with the worst taste in clothing: he either wears jerseys or t-shirts three sizes too big). He is the type of friend who always notices when something is wrong and does all that he can do to try and make you feel better.

Jared will be heading down south next year to attend Morehouse (an all-black college in Atlanta) and plans to major in PolySci. His time at Latin School hasn't been easy, but he feels like he is leaving well prepared for the outside world. He wants to give shoutouts to: me, Kristen, Ogo, Norianne, Johnny, Joe, Roberson, Carl, Henrique, Chris and Darla.

Karen Herrera

By Sonia Lomba, I
Contributing Writer

I got to know Karen back in the tenth grade during our world history class—10,000 notes later, she was my gurl! I have never met such a calm, determined and mature woman. Karen has multitasked as a student, president of TAG, and a mother. Karen has been the backbone of the TAG club for the past two years; her dedication can be seen in the expansion of TAG, its shows and events. Karen is a helpful person by nature, even if she is the one who should be helped—I mean really, what pregnant woman would offer you half of her lunch? Now I know you're wondering. where did Karen go? Being the incredible person she is, Karen has been doing her assignments at home and receiving tutoring from Mr. Izzo so that she can graduate with us. Karen is truly someone to look up to—even with everything she's been through, I doubt you've ever heard her complain. She just does whatever it takes to accomplish her goal and always looks on the bright side of things. She is blessed with a beautiful baby girl (Gabriela) who I know will further inspire Karen in her future endeavors.

Nilda Ramos

By Sonia Lomba, I
Contributing Writer

Many of you know Nilda as that girl who is always wearing skirts, or as "the short Mexican-looking Puerto Rican." Nilda is an easy person to love or despise, but whether you love her or hate her, you should respect her. It's very hard for a person not to conform to society and to keep her beliefs, but Nilda has managed to. Through much hard work she earned a full scholarship to Gordon College. I have known Nilda since fourth grade and have watched her grow in many ways. Looking back I remember Nilda as a shy young girl. Now, however, she has become a strong young woman, anything but lacking in confidence. Many people may characterize her as "the church girl at school," but Nilda is more than just that. She is a person who stands up for her beliefs and tries her best to spread the Gospel. Her faith has definitely had an impact on all of the people that surround her and the choices they make. What she says may not be what our generation wants to hear, but it is definitely something to think about. Knowing her has made me value life more. I will always remember her as my only friend sixie year, that shy girl whom no one knew better than I did.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

Fahd Abdus-Sabur	Tufts University
Christopher Abramo	Johnson & Wales University
Carl Adams	Boston University
Karyn Aiello	UMass Boston
Mikhail Alert	Andrews University
Syed Almamun	Columbia University
Curivan Alouidor	Northeastern University
Marielle Anas	CUNY City College
Bieta Andemariam	Harvard College
Shantelle Anderson	Northeastern University
Nivdarla Anselm	Columbia Union
Frank Ashe	Northeastern University
Sara Awad	UMass Boston
Oscar Baez	Amherst College
Amira Bahloul	Bridgewater State College
Alexander Baker	Year Off
Darius Banani	University of Chicago
St. John Barned-Smith	Case Western Reserve University
Katie Barnes	New York University
Ariana Barr	University of Chicago
Allison Beard	UMass Boston
Kassa Belay	Concordia University Montreal
Alexandra Belcher	Harvard College
Alona Benton	Spelman College
Kevin Bernazzani	UMass Amherst
Ryan Bickerton	Framingham State College
Alexander Bisaga	UMass Amherst
Robson Bouquet	Curry College
Leah Bourak	UMass Amherst
Erin Brassil	UMass Amherst
Anthony Buda	Harvard College
Lisa Thi Bui	Suffolk University
Ayodele Buraimoh	Harvard College
Lisa Byrne	University of New Hampshire
Justine Cabrera	Boston University
Laylanni Camacho	Boston College
Andrea Caputo	UMass Amherst
Michelle Carter	UMass Amherst
Roberson Castor	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Eric Chan	Babson College
Suzy Chan	Northeastern University
Sylvia Chan	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Timothy Chan	UMass Amherst
William Chan	Northeastern University
Fritzar Charles	Bridgewater State College
Jo Nathan Charles	Northeastern University
Jeanny Cheung	Northeastern University
Daniel Chin	Rochester Institute of Technology
Jeffrey Chin	Boston College
Edna Chiu	Boston University
Lily Cho	UMass Amherst
Michelle Cho	George Washington University
Ian Chong	Harvard College
Katie Chong	Major Idiot Training
Louisa Choy	Wellesley College
Karen Chui	UMass Amherst
Marvin Cine	Harvard College
Gregory Cleary	Unknown
Carolyn Colby	Eastern Nazarene College
Brittany Colleran	Providence College
Hayley Colleran	University of New Mexico
Paul Collins	Stonehill College
Christopher Collotta	UMass Amherst
Lupita Colon	Fordham University
G. Bronson Conlin	Catholic University of America
Brendan Conneely	Bridgewater State
Joseph Connor	Fordham University
Megan Conway	Tulane University
Cristina Cucchiara	Fordham University
James Curley	UMass Amherst
Jonina Dames	Reed College
Daniel Dapkas	Boston University
Richard Dararaksmey	Rochester Institute of Technology
Kelly Deegan	UMass Amherst
Nadine Deery	Northeastern University
Marie Delosh	New York University
Patricia Dembro	UMass Lowell
Andrew Dervan	UMass Amherst
Stephanie Desanges	Northeastern University
Deirdre Devlin	University of Southern California
Lisa Diep	UMass Amherst
Derek Dillon	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Matthew DiVito	Emerson College
Hoang Lisa Do	Tufts University
Meghan Doherty	Harvard College
Katherine Donahue	Fairfield University
Jeffrey Donaldson	Northeastern University
Miles Donath-Diaz	UMass Amherst
Katherine Dooley	Florida State University
Margaret Dougherty	UMass Lowell
Lydia Downing	Colorado College
Benjamin Drabkin	McGill University
Hannah Dromgoole	Eugene Lang College
Emily Dunne	Rhode Island School of Design
Kevin Duong	Boston University
Dennis Durant	Iona College
Erin Durkin	Columbia University
Henrique Eduardo	Boston University
Joseph Efezokhae	Boston College
Simon Eisenberg	Macalester College
Diana Espino	Suffolk University
Ethan Fahy	Boston University
David Falta	UMass Dartmouth
Thomas Flanagan	Providence College
Andrew Flannery	CUNY Manhattan
Kerryann Foley	Syracuse University
Jessica Fong	Rutgers New Brunswick
George Francois	Northeastern University
Jora Frantzis	St. John's University
Christine Froomer	Boston University
Jayce G	Eckerd College
Meghan Gallagher	Suffolk University
Meaghann Gallarelli	Temple University
Timothy Galvin	Boston College
Meredith Garry	University of Chicago
Joanne Gee	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Tammy Gee	Becker College
Carl Geneus	Boston University
Anna George	Hamilton College
Aaron Gerratt	Tufts University
Darian Ghorbi	Carnegie Mellon University
Matthew Giangregorio	Salve Regina University
Caitlin Gianniny	Cooper Union
Taphath Giles	George Washington University
Jillian Gordon	New York University
Harley Gorton	Union College of New York
Jessica Grace	Curry College
Elizabeth Graham	Fordham University
Jan Grey	Bunker Hill Community College
Robert Grueter	Boston University
Gayle Guilford	Wellesley College
Gretchen Guo	Harvard College
Elizabeth Gutay	Boston College
Mark Handleyhoar	UMass Amherst
Tracey Hannon	Stonehill College
Elyse Hanson	Harvard College
Rashad Hardaway	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Kathleen Harrington	Stonehill College
Laura Harrington	UMass Lowell
Mary Hays	College of the Holy Cross
Karen Herrera	Lesley College
Karen Ho	Boston University
John Holbrook	Marist College
Andrew Huang	UMass Amherst
Yao Huang	Harvard College
Hoa Huynh	UMass Boston
Janelle Jackson	Clark Atlanta University
Nathaniel Jackson	Grove City College
Syed Taha Jafri	UMass Amherst
Michael Jaradeh	UMass Amherst
Adam Jenness	UMass Amherst
O'Neill Joseph	Undecided
Evan Paul Kaps	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Caitlin Kean	College of the Holy Cross
Lawrence Keegan	Suffolk University
Amanda Kessler	Ithaca College
Genevieve Klim	Boston University
Elias Kopsiaftis	Northeastern University
William Koscenski	Undecided
Alexa Kuzmich	Stonehill College
Danielle Lacey	University of Vermont
Gretchen Lafond	Boston College
Wendy Lam	Boston University
Anhying Lang	UMass Amherst
Elizabeth Larosee	Boston University
Caroline Lau	Boston College
Marina Lau	Carnegie Mellon University
Sandra Lau	Brandeis University
Khoa Le	Undecided
Mary Le	UMass Amherst
Ana Louise Leary	McGill University
Philip Lee	Northeastern University
Darline Lefevre	UMass Amherst
Cindy Legagneur	George Washington University
Carolina Leins	UMass Amherst
Neil Lender	Boston University
Casey Leonard	Salve Regina University
Andrew Leone	Boston University
Deneen Levy	Gordon College (MA)
Young Xuyang Li	Brandeis University
Ho Lio	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Yelena Litvinenko	UMass Boston
Darwin Liu	UMass Amherst
Yitao Liu	Purdue University
Danyank Lok	Harvard College
Sonia Lomba	Pine Manor College
Ruthzee Louijeune	Columbia University
Jimmy Luc	Brandeis University
May Luo	Harvard College
Mardoche Luxcin	Undecided
Lin Ma	UMass Amherst
Susan Ma	Boston University
Katie MacDonald	Salem State College
Conor Maguire	Massachusetts College of Art
Michael Mak	Brown University
Marta Malko	UMass Amherst
Marcos Marcal	Boston University
Andrew Marrone	Emmanuel College
Tiffany Martelli	Regis College
Ariana Massaro	UMass Amherst
Alix McAfee	UMass Amherst
Linda McDonagh	Rochester Institute of Technology
Kathryn McDonald	Harvard College
James McDonough	Colby College
Laura McDonough	UMass Amherst
Caitlin McGovern	UMass Amherst
Noah McKenna	Bard College
Halle Melcher	Boston University
Nicholas Michaud	Bard College
Rachel Mirando	Undecided
Mickey Monarch	Boston University
Lillian Mooney	Vassar College
Catherine Moran	Holy Cross
Kathleen Moran	Fordham University
Michael Moran	UMass Amherst
Patricia Morris	Wellesley College
Alan Mui	UMass Amherst
Melina Munoz	Emerson College
Michael Murphy	UMass Amherst
Joseph Mutascio	Undecided
Martha Nalysnyk	Harvard College
Ogo Ndugba	Howard University
Bryan Newbold	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nellie Ng	UMass Amherst
Dan Nguyen	UMass Amherst
Khoa Nguyen	Boston University
Le Nguyen	Boston University
Thanh Tuyen Nguyen	Clark University
Tuyet Hunong Nguyen	Boston College
April Nieves	University of Connecticut
Corey Nimmer	UMass Amherst
Kseniya Nivorozhkina	Boston University
Brian Nowak	UMass Amherst
Elizabeth O'Donnell	Quinnipiac College
Philson Ong	UMass Amherst
Stanley Onuoha	UMass Amherst
Kristen Orthman	American University
Felipe Paes	Southeastern College
Aubrie Pagano	Harvard College
Hewsan Pang	University of Colorado
Brian Pastore	Norwich University
Norianne Peart	Clark Atlanta University
Ashley Pham	Brandeis University
Linette Phu	Boston University
Brian Piccirillo	UMass Boston
Johnny Pimentel	Suffolk University
Katherine Pittore	McGill University
Anthony Poulos	UMass Amherst
Shaun Price	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Jared Prince	Boston College
Michael Proia	Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Richard Puopolo	UMass Amherst
Alana Rabe	Brown University
Andrew Rabkin	Boston University
Natasha Ramanayake	Boston University
Nilda Ramos	Gordon College (MA)
Chantelle Ransome	UMass Amherst
Brittany Regan	Fordham University
Megan Reynolds	Eckerd College
Steven Rice	New England Institute of Art
Tiffany Rice	Pine Manor College
Zachary Robbins	Arizona State University
Elizabeth Rouse	Bryn Mawr College
Michael Ryan	Stonehill College
Anthony Sai	Framingham State College
Dadjie Saintus	Harvard College
Diana Samandarova	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Elizabeth Sampson	UMass Amherst
Jared Sampson	Morehouse College
Juan Sanchez	UMass Amherst
Jose Santiago	Columbia University
Mariana Sarango	Wesleyan University
Christopher Saunders	Middlebury College
Cory Savereid	Wesleyan University
Vinoo Selvarajah	Rutgers New Brunswick
Nicole Senecal	Brandeis University
Amanda Shapiro	Harvard College
Christine Sherman	Providence College
Sharon Silverman	Tufts University
Chelsea Simpson	Guilford College
Tiara Sims	Pine Manor College
Kassandra Skipper	University of Colorado
Stephen Smith	UMass Amherst
Huu Thien Son	Boston University
Julie Soohoo	Harvard College
Richard Soohoo	Boston University
Kristen Stone	Salve Regina University
Kerry Sullivan	Boston University
Mallorie Sullivan	University of Edinburgh
Xi Min Sun	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Christopher Tam	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Nafkote Tamirat	Yale University
Mark Tassinari	Northeastern University
Max Tassinari	Bentley College
Catherine Teahan	Bridgewater State College
Maria Terova	Boston University
Dinah Thibeault	Boston University
Justin Tierney	Bridgewater State College
Allegra Timperi	Bates College
Michelle Tom	UMass Amherst
Sunny Toomey	Salve Regina University
Peter Tramontozzi	UMass Amherst
Hang Tran	Boston College
Zachary Trayes-Gibson	University of Chicago
Peter Trenh	UMass Amherst
Elizabeth Tricco	Bentley College
Moc Lan Trinh	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Derek Truong	UMass Amherst
Stephen Tsang	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Raymond Tse	Bridgewater State College
Samson Tsoi	Boston University
Chau Minh Vu	UMass Amherst
Katherine Walsh	Boston College
Leiyang Wang	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Ruibing Wang	Cornell University
Xuan Wang	Brandeis University
Christopher Warren	UMass Amherst
Andre Wells	Northeastern University
Ning Wen	Bentley College
Jabbar White	UMass Amherst
Christopher Wiggins	Florida Institue of Technology
Ariane Williams	University of Chicago
Jhovon Williams	UMass Amherst
Robert Winikates	Harvard College
David Wong	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Garfy Wong	Bentley College
Hoiyuen Wong	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Ivan Wong	Syracuse University
Joanne Wong	Wellesley College
Nancy Wong	Boston University
Anne Wu	Boston College
Bonnie Wu	Northeastern University
Connie Wu	Boston University
Henry Wu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kenny Yang	UMass Amherst
Kevin Yang	Boston College
Nora Yang	Manhattanville College
Qiwei Yao	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Jonathan Yee	UMass Amherst
Wayne Yee	Bentley College
Tina Yiu	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Adriana Yu	Bentley College
Jeffrey Yu	Northeastern University
Fang Yuan	Brandeis University
Emilia Zambrano	Longy School of Music
Muching Zhang	George Washington University
Peipei Zhang	Harvard College
Xu Zhang	UMass Amherst
Yuan Zhang	University of Chicago
Alice Zheng	Boston University
Maria Zolotarev	Northeastern University
Linying Zou	Boston College

Senior Section

President Janelle Jackson

Up until this point I thought the hardest thing I ever had to write was my speech, but here I am now trying to say farewell to the people who have become a major part of my life. I never thought the words "I'm gonna miss this place" would ever flow from my lips, and they won't, but I'm gonna miss these people. The friendships and enemies we have made will follow us for the rest of our lives. We may one day meet again in the workplace, at school, or many years from now as parents of sixies, but no matter what, we will meet again.

The lessons that we have learned as students at the Latin School far surpass any of those we have left to learn. We have learned English, Latin, math and politics. Take the lessons you have learned here and run with them. See, as students we have had to adhere to the rules, but as alums we will have the power, and hopefully the money to change the rules. Even if you hated this place, when you walk across that stage, it's like a shifting of power. I'm not saying come back here to throw water balloons at Mr. Flynn or change wardrobe requirements for certain teachers, but come back and make a difference. The only way things will change is if we, when alums, take control and change them. I will leave you with one last piece of advice: grow, don't change. We have been one of the most successful classes because we are strong individuals that strike a mighty blow when they are driven and come together, but if we don't grow from our experiences then we are dead. "Anything that's not growing is dead," (Laurys Itill).
Now for my thank-you's:

Thank God who makes all things possible, to Mr. Keitt and Ms. Kelley: thank you for giving us enough rope to succeed, but not too much so that we hung ourselves. To class committes: You have been our connections ond dispersers of information even when I couldn't be there. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by the other officers. George and April, you both have gone above and beyond the call of duty when we wished you to, thank you. To Rob: You have been our saviour. No one will ever know how much you really helped us. Good luck at Harvard. To Ruthzee: girl, you fufilled my duties when I couldn't and took a bullet when I couldn't, without you where would I be? To Ms. Skerritt and Ms. Freeman: your will, strength, and independence are ispirational. Thanks for all the motherly advice and the laughs.

Lastly to my mother, a woman whose strength, tough love and spirit has given me life and guided me through life. I love you.

Vice President Ruthzee Louijeune

I don't really know how to say goodbye to you guys or to Boston Latin School. This is a moment of mixed sentiments for me—relief, sadness, anticipation, fear, joy and nostalgia. As we prepare to travel on different paths after six years together (more or less), we begin to reminisce about the many good times and bad times we have had as a class.So much has happened in the years that we've been together. We lost John, one of the greatest people I have known; some of us lost a wonderful teacher, Mr. Lee; and we are in the midst of a turbulent world. Still, however, each one of us has accumulated the strength and willpower to make it through Latin's Inferno, and for that, we all deserve props.

Despite the many obstacles we faced throughout our adolescent years here at Latin, you have to admit, we all have some pretty good memories—the 8th grade dance, pipe day, the SAC (and the many puns on the word "SAC"), the crazy car wash, the parent (senior?) social and so on. I must say that I will never forget these last years with you guys, and if I had to do it again...okay, I wouldn't, but they were still some good days. As your class vice-president, I have loved getting to know each and every one of you and I enjoyed working for the benefit of the Class of 2004. All the stress and craziness was worth it, because '04 made history in more ways than one.

I just want to give some shout outs to some special people:

To the fam—Mom, Dad, Rodline (IV), Kenthia, and Elmane. My success at Latin would have been impossible if you guys didn't put up with me. Thanks for the love and support.

To my fellow class officers—Much love to Janelle and April. George, your presence alone always made for an interesting experience. Rob, Rob, Rob, what can I say? Thank you for always going above and beyond.

To Class Committee (and Mr. Keitt) and all the seniors who helped us out at our events. Some big ups to Cory, Nate, and Cindy for making me smile on Tuesdays.

To the administration, above all to Ms. Kelley for the packed schedule you always have on account of your devotion to the kids at this school.

To Ms. Sylvester for her brownies. And oh yeah, for all that guidance and college stuff. To "T" for the rides.

To the wonderful teachers who convinced me that I could succeed and always inspired me to do my best..And also to the not-so-wonderful teachers that I have encountered for making my life difficult, forcing me to become a stronger person.

To my BBD/BBD² crew and affiliates (Justine!), for the many memories, *endless* laughter, infamous parties, and for being my girls through thick and thin. To Caro, for just *everything*. You are all stars that need to start shining.

To the greatest class BLS has ever seen: '04 represent. We made it, game over. Okay, so this was not the most eloquent way of saying goodbye to everyone, but who cares. We may be done with the schoolwork at BLS, but it is up to '04 to make our mark in this world and change it for the better because there is so much to be done. Always remember to follow the path of your strongest word, and let no one discourage you from your dreams. With that, I'm out. See y'all at the reunion in 2054.

This year was for you, John.

"It so hard to say goodbye to yesterday, I don't know where this road, Is going to lead, All I know is where we've been, And what we've been through, If we get to see tomorrow, I hope it's worth all the wait, It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday, And I'll take with me the memories, To be my sunshine after the rain."

Secretary George Francois

Ok...so...I'm at work, right? I'm scheduling a patient for chemo treatment and I see that I have a message on my phone. Who is it? None other than the half-asleep Ruthzee Louijeune (raspy voice and all), the Vice-President of the Class of 2004. Now I'm like, "What the hell does she want?" I know it has to do with senior class stuff but I'm not sure what it is this time. She's like, "No one told you?" I'm saying to myself, "Told me what?" She's like, "You have to write an article for the *Argo* and it's due ASAP." I say ok and immediately get mad that no one told me, because it could have been completed weeks ago. It's been like this all year... (Man! Ruthzee's a tyrant! I swear that's what Louijuene means in Creole! I still love you though.)

This message goes out to the Boston Latin School community, which has been blessed with my presence for six years. I am sorry to say that I will be leaving, but I *am* leaving, as many of you may already know, and attending Northeastern University in the fall...(Pass the tissue! Oh, yeah! And that Dutch too!)

The message goes more like this:

Latin School, the love of my life, my alma mater, what will I do without you, how can I live without you?

I have no idea what to write. I know that I must thank a whole whack of people, but I can't include names in case I forget a few, because I need to live for the next 50 years (if I make it past the graduation ceremony!)

Remember, even "losers" can get voted into office (George Bush) and perform their duties with dignity (not George Bush). Believe it or not, I was your average Latin School student. I didn't have that high GPA or any of that other stuff going for me (NHS). Don't think that just because you aren't the smartest or best that you can't achieve your goals, because you'll be dead wrong! Can you imagine coming back from a five-day suspension, passing in your nomination form, finding out that you are a candidate for becoming an officer? Then even winning the position? Yeah, that's my life!

Can you imagine being a senior, working three jobs, managing a social life, living a double life, and then, to make it worse, having the responsibility of managing a few after school activities? Don't do it! (Especially if you can't handle stress!)

Nothing is impossible. *NIKE.* (just do it!)



COURTESY OF MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

Treasurer April Nieves

I just wanna give some shout-outs before I begin to get serious:

To Sonia Lomba who used me as her guinea pig in learning how to braid. (It paid off cuz I can get my hair braided for free, even if I'm sleeping.)

To Darla and Gretchen Lafond for braiding my hair for competition and pep rally.

To Nori for being such a goofy and fun person (even with those glasses).

To Kerry Foley and Joe Connor for always being there when you need them. (BLS-TV!)

To Cindy Legagneur, who always kept me company at the football games.

To Rashad, who stayed with me in Step Squad for five years.

To Ashley Pham (we've had ups and downs), who will always remain in my heart as a great friend.

To all those people—Ms. Sylvester, Gio and many others—who have helped me stay sane in this institution.

To my father, Mr. Nieves, who gave me a ride every morning (and yelled at me for making him tardy), and who was always there to support me in every way.

To George, who always kept me entertained with his conversation.

To Officer Owens, for being someone to talk to.

To Janelle, for understanding my love life.

And last but not least, to Ruthzee Louijéune (yes, that is spelled correctly, a.k.a. Woodz), who has been with me all of these 12 years and has been a great and supportive friend through all of them.

To the Class of 2004: I just want to congratulate all of y'all for getting through these years at BLS. I am so glad that we are all through this step in our life. I am also happy that I have gotten to know each one of you, those I've known for all 12 years of school or those I just met a week ago at the National Honor Society induction. I've had a great experience at BLS and it is mainly because of the greatness that you hold and will continue to spread throughout this country. You are all GREAT people and I know that you will go far and have lives full of happiness.

Chairman Rob Winikates

This year I've had a lot of fun being Class Committee Chairman. From our carwash to the school spirit days to meeting with the people from the graduation venues, this year has been a blast! First off, I want to thank the Class of 2004, because we have made it. As a class we have had some tough times, but we have also gotten over them, done a lot of good things, and had our fair share of fun at the same time. To the teachers, so many of you have worked so hard to give us a quality education, and I know that I am grateful. To the administration, thank you for your support, especially in getting a new venue for graduation. To our parents, mentors, and role models, thank you all for helping us to get where we are today; without you, so much would not have happened. To all my classmates, I hope that our years here together will remain as special to you in the future as they are to me now. We've done something amazing, and I look forward to staying in touch, or at least catching up with you from time to time, because we are off to bright futures.

To the younger students that I am leaving behind: I have gained so much from Latin because I tried to take any opportunity that was open to me. One opportunity lead me to another, which cascaded itself into a really enjoyable time in high school. That's my only advice, to do whatever programs are open to you.

Most importantly, I wish to close with wishes to the Yessayan family. John was one of the nicest people I know, and I wish to state publicly that he still influences my actions to this day. Anytime I have a tough decision to make, I reflect back on what John might have done in a similar situation, and I have made some good decisions based on those reflections. #40 forever strong.

Thank you all and here's to bright futures! I hope to see you all at the five-year reunion at the very least

Senior Section

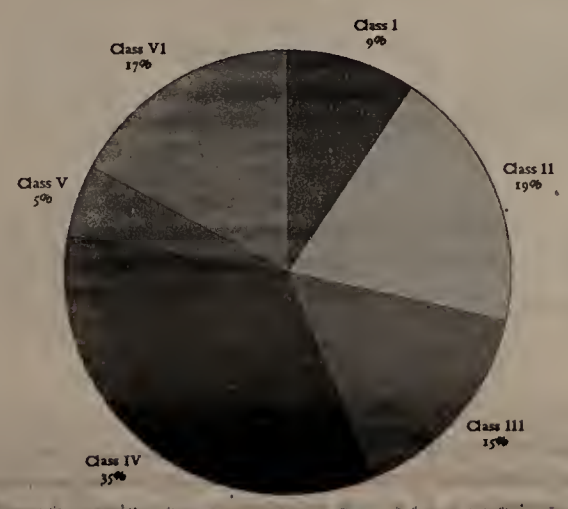
Things I Wish I'd Done

read for History classes
paid attention in Latin class
taken AP's
slept more
started the American Quattro with Liz O'Donnel and others
played an instrument
did public declamation
joined the drama club
actually studied
played more sports
tried?
done sports before 11th grade
taken easier classes
asked that hot girl out
taken Italian
taken more "mental health" days
gotten approbation
met Allen Iverson
been less shy
spoken my mind to certain teachers
been more outgoing
taken risks
studied for Biology AP
taken AP US History
applied to an Ivy
made the math team
really tried to learn Latin or Spanish
had more fun
more of my homework
been more involved in music here
taken Biology AP
taken AP Economics
taken Writing AP
tried my hardest
been more studious
learned how to salsa
a play or a musical
taken Facing History
started volleyball earlier
taken easier classes
tried a little harder and cared a little more
slept
homework
teabagged annoying people
studied
slept more
played on the golf team
learned how to play drums
played sports
less work in 7th and 8th grade
made my movie
stopped working earlier
gone to Bahamas
been smart
taken certain things more seriously and other things less seriously
played a sport
my laundry
traveled more
lied on my FAFSA
gotten involved sooner
asked out Bieta when I had the chance
all my work
gone to more school events
talked to more people
gone to Eastern Europe
worked in 9th grade
met people outside of Latin sooner
studied a little harder (studied at all!)
gotten some sleep
made more friends (lifelong friends!)
ridden a horse
hung out with a wider variety of people
worked
actually tried in school
slept more
had more fun
made more friends
learned how to BS better
Nafkote Tamirat
everything I wanted to do
tried
been at BLS when Adam Greenwood was here
tried harder
joined more clubs
kissed Sunny Toomey
taken Writing AP and Art AP
spent more time with friends
gotten my license
tried school lunch
cooler stuff
Summer Search
asked Zipper to prom
played a 2nd varsity sport
gotten straight A's
gotten to know more people
followed Mr. Akeson's survival hints
talked to the people I talk to now so much earlier
been more outgoing
skipped school when Dr. Carroll said it was OK
gone to Europe for FHAO
slept more
cut class more often
slacked off more
relaxed
gone to Montreal
gone to more parties
known more people
gotten better grades
realized 8th grade did matter
run as far away and as fast as possible from BLS
passed Geometry and Physics II
been more social
done homework
punched a sixie
taken Italian
physically fought more administrators and teachers
gotten more sleep
played an instrument
told on those who have cheated on the SAT and ended up in a good college
studied harder
not procrastinated
spent more time having fun
asked more questions in class
more work, more clubs
cut school more
a solo for gospel choir
studied
gotten Approbation
worked so much at Roches
cut more, partied more
Kathleen
let things get to me
had a good, positive attitude every day
danced more

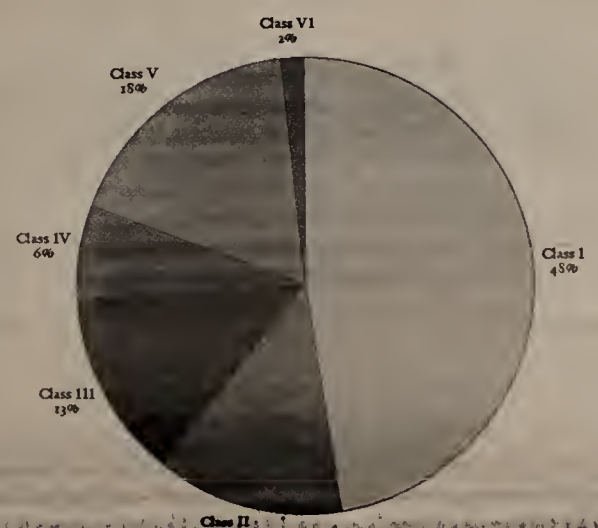
Things I Wish I Hadn't Done

wasted my time here
gone sword fighting O'neil and Ellis
spent time worrying about stupid stuff
gossiped so much
been absent so often
... can't think of any
gotten so stressed about little things
taken Pre-Calculus
taken Calculus but Stats AP instead
stressed so much
stood around being amused at student strife
taken Chem for colleges that rejected me
slacked off 'till junior year
slept in class everyday
taken AP Physics
taken Foreign Policy
J.M. (enough said)
taken Stats
become an expert in the art of procrastination
taken Greek Tradition
all that homework
been caught cutting class
taken French
fought with my friends
<pleading the 5th>
taken Economics AP
not cool stuff
my Boy Blue
AP Econom-eeks!
Allison's survival hunt
work
taken Physics
taken Calculus
French
procrastinated
left when everyone else got kicked out
cut so many classes
taken Government AP
missed Approbation every single term
been here every (yes every) freaking day (perfect attendance 6 years)
taken Physics II
eaten school lunch
... yep
cheated in the 9th grade
taken Calculus
projects at the last minute
procrastinated
dated guys
lost sleep
eaten so many donuts
stayed up late to do stupid homework
taken AP Environmental Science
slacked off
gotten kept back
Chemistry I
eaten school lunch
homework
stayed awake in school so much
the ox
gone to BLS
sprained both ankles
gotten lazy junior year
Dino
so much homework
Summit Program
too many to list
taken Statistics
waited so long to make good friends
been taken out of a CM dance in an ambulance – or at least that's how I think I got to the Faulkner Hospital
not studied as much in my lower years
taken Physics and French
thrown pop-tarts at that gorilla's head
played soccer
gone to BLS
taken Greek Tradition
taken Physics... that was the biggest mistake of my life
slacked off in freshman and sophomore year
had sophomore year
taken Greek
slacked off in 10th grade
stressed so much/let time pass so quickly
my Statistics homework
worked so hard
lost my sanity
fallen asleep so much in History class
Band
gone to Cape Cod
Summer Search
all that pointless homework
all that time on Instant Messenger
watched "One Tree Hill"
taken AP US History
paid attention
procrastinated so much
slacked off so much
any work last term
come here
so much work in 7th and 8th grade
stayed stupid
gone to this school
had regrets
come here
gotten white hairs
taken that extra year of Latin AP
Physics AP
taken so many AP's
eaten that steak and cheese sub
lost my faith in humanity
gotten the whoop
swallowed my gum in Calculus class
... no regrets
let Jan twist
gone to most of my classes
gotten caught drinking at Celtics game
waited so long
called Ms. Davis "Betty"
not tried at all before junior year
most of the things I ended up doing
slept with my eyes open
procrastinated
taken Facing History
... a lot of things...
forgotten everything about German and Latin as soon as I stopped taking those classes
repeated junior year
stressed so much
Latin and Spanish Honors in 10th grade
taken Economics
taken SAT prep courses
gotten involved
spelled the word guys "g-e-y-s" on videotape
eaten from the chinese food truck
failed Physics II
gone to Quebec in 8th grade
taken Calculus
met my 7th grade Earth Science teacher
taken AP Physics and Latin
slept in class
Connections
French AP
been so serious with my work
woken up my mom on the front porch
cared so much about school work when it didn't matter... like 7th-9th grades
gotten caught cheating
gone to all my classes
taken the Computer AP test
studied so hard for useless stuff
Written Chinese on my AP Bio final

Worst Year



Best Year



Mark,

Congratulations!

We're so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, and Devin

CONGRATULATIONS, BRIAN PICCIRILLO!

-LOVE, MOM, DAD, AND CHRISTINA

Congratulations Tim and the Class of 2004

Love,
Dad, Mom, Mike and Liz

Senior Section

Most Important Thing Learned

how to write
survival of the fittest
ignore Mr. Haritos
how to shine shoes
how to do a science project in 3 hours
if you're going to be late, be as late as you can be!
the importance of conduct and grades is highly overrated
the value of learning
all you need is love
Chinese
math
time management
the senioritis virus has infected 99.9% of the senior class
long hair is for bums
how to get by without doing work
how to steal chocolate milk
how to get grades
European History
one of the entrances to the roof is in the auditorium
you can't survive here without losing a bit of sanity
nothing
how to teach myself
you have a brain in you head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose
how to BS
how to get by with doing the least amount of work
which door is the safest to bounce from
that life is unfair
there's no pool on the roof
the art of BSing
the art of procrastination
procrastination is okay!
Mr. Akesn's survival hints
L'hospital's rule
7th and 8th grade is a joke
Texas Hold' em
English, math, sciences
people change like the weather
working hard does not pay off
how important friends really are
to laugh and just have fun
Mr. Ruffino is crazy
you have to leran to congratulate / praise yourself instead of looking to others to do it because a lot of times, no one will
how to BS
how to get to class in four minutes
how to procrastinate
that it is possible to survive off three hours of lseep
how to get the grade
how to BS
that more than one lobster was present at the birth of Jesus
that nobody's smarter than anyone – they just work harder
live and let live, no matter how stupid people can be
life is unfair
you're in control of your own destiny
life goes on and the possibilities are endless
how to BS a ten-minute presentation
who your real friends are
how to bull an entire paper / test and still get a B!
how to cheat effectively
how to BS papers with ease and still get good grades
corruption and cheating are everywhere
sleep is good
best work written between 2am – 5am
a person can go through life on three hours of sleep
how to cut corners
how to make up my own book reports and science data
love is the most important thing in our lives – right after having a 4.5 GPA
to always be able to laugh at everything
that I'm losing brain cells here
people in national honor society cheat – they just don't get caught
rules are made to be selectively enforced
multiple ways to insult people in English, Spanish, Chinese, and German
the name and caffeine content of every beverage at Starbucks
how to thrive off of chaos
that is isn't acceptable to eat alligator meat on a Friday in Lent
how to BS
that reading is overrated
how to not read
to not care about anything too much
how to BS
how to get massive loads of work done at the last minute
BS
people who are popular here would never be considered popular anywhere else
how to escape from prison
not everyone at BLS is as smart as they think they are
make lots of friends
nothing
how to BS
how to sleep with eyes open
how to produce music (no thanks to BLS)
how to fall asleep (wink wink), stay asleep, and go unnoticed
how to deal with unpleasant people
balance my time
how to get shot down repeatedly by the same girl
how to BS on my papers
how to procrastinate but still get it done on time
how to sleep soundly in class
that "Shannon" can be a guy's name
to sleep during class
how awesome my friends are
how to bull any paper the night before it's due
to always wear sneakers when drinking in the woods
it's not all about the work – you have to have fun too
how to live off of no sleep
how to pee in the woods – bring napkins!
enjoy life
anything can be done at the last minute
Latin isn't useful
people can change
a penny can help you pass a breathalyzer test
that I have unbelievable game
how to wear fingerless gloves
BS is as good as regular work
how to BS a paper really well
sleep does not matter anymore
to be honest
how to be organized
how to get along with other people
making friends
having an advisor in school
school lunch looks nasty – probably is but the home/school-made cookies are good, have to get one in the line early just to get one before they're gone
how to write a paper in 30 min
not to play fair
that it's not worth it
BS my work
being more open with others
GPA matters

Least Important Thing Learned

Latin
The Icemann!!!
How to make the perfect paper airplane
What an ion is...no wait I can't remember what it is so I guess I didn't learn it after all
Can't think of any
$A^2+b^2=c^2$
Latin!
Calculus
How to set up the cafeteria lunch tables
Various words from Latin
Corruption
Anything physics-related
Agricola, agricolae, it'll be worth it to stay at Latin(not!)
French or Latin
How to put up with awful administrators
Latin(in general)
F=ma
4th and 5th declension
Trigonometry
Latin
Calculus
Everyone is a big fat cheater and a suck-up
Chemistry
Chinese
Latin
Latin
DeMoivre's Theorem
Sixth DeclensionNot to procrastinate(it's the way to guy)
Physics F=ma
Statistic
F=ma
Calculus
Mr. Walker's basketball lessons
French
If it wasn't important why would I remember it
The French passe' compose'
raina, ae f. frong
Latin- just why?
"People can be stupid until they die"-Karydas
Geometry, Physics
An ai is a three toed South American sloth
Bome bud material
Math, science
Why I am afraid to tell you who I am
Did projects last minute
How to cheat the library system
$Latin^3$
Latin
Math, at all levels
All those stupid history facts
Latin vocabulary
Unnecessary crap in all those garbage subjects that will never pay off
Latin
Agricola, Agricolae M. Farmer
$(a+\sqrt{(b^2-4ac)})/2a$
Latin
Procrastination
Second person plural actually is you even though yuz makes more sense
Contrary to popular belief colleges do care about grades
People actually like soccer
How to procrastinate 'til five minutes before something is due
Monopsony
Anything to do with math, Latin
Latin
Latin
Greek
French
Everything I learn is important...
Except chemistry with the Schluz
Ms. Kelly's speeches
Science Projects
Anything During Senior Year
The Greek Tradition
Latin
French
Physics
Latin
Biology
Economics
Chemistry
Everything except English, Math, and Art
How to trap a rabid tortoise
Spanish
Everything having to do with Latin
French 1
French 2
French 3
French 4
$[] = qenc/E_o$
Chemistry
Greek
How to get around BLS rules
Lunch schedule
Donald Duck wore pants, but when he came out of the shower he always wrapped a towel around his waist...what's up with that?
Economics(actually I didn't even learn that subject)
Algebra
Math
Latin
History
French
Greek
Science
Calculus
Statistics – if there's a pattern, there's a pattern!
There's no need for all those equations!
Latin
Latin
Look to your left, look to your right-one of you will not graduate(both the people I sat next to are graduating with me!)
Latin
Anything Latin or math related
Precalculus
Latin conjugations
Slope fields
Latin
Anything said by guidance counselors
US History
Latin... but I haven't learned it
German
Derivatives and integrals... when would I ever use them?!
"Fac vaca lat" - Durkin, power series
Spanish
The inner workings of Roman Equestrian Society
Always tell the truth
Looking in the mirror to see if Ms. Kelley would approve
POH and all the chem. In chapter 15
Latin
American History
Stociciometry
Latin
An alternate way tie my shoelaces
Latin
Arma Virimque Cano
Latin
Art class in 8th grade
Derivatives
Areaof a surface of revolution
Huge importance of my GPA and SATs
Biology
Calculus
Economics
English
Physics
...the list goes on
How to sleep in class with my eyes open like a goldfish and still hear the teacher
Latin
Statistics
CPR, the Hermlich maneuver
How to procrastinate. For a VERY long time
Reading US News and World Report guide to colleges
How to find rates of change
Biology
"assassinated presidents are dead"
Algebra I and II, geometry
How to procrastinate
The Latin language and integral AP Physics
Latin
Everything
The useless information taught in several classes
Almost everything in Greek Tradition, now to fill in a bubble
Greek
Math
How to say "thank-you" in Latin
every library rule
anything I learned from Mr. Luis's class

Elyse,

You're a tough act to follow.
Congratulations!
Love,
David BLS '06
Janine BLS '09

To my loving daughter, the inspiration of my life. You have exceeded all of my hopes and dreams for your future, may the anointing of God guide you through your amazing journey. Always remember that whatever you do in life, Mom and Dad will always be there for you.

We Love You!
The Claudio, Ramos, Rivas, Nieves and Rodriquez Family

Best of Luck!

Ian Chong and Henry Wu

Congratulations on your graduation from BLS. I wish you all every success and happiness.

Sue Chung

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
AMANDA SHAPIRO
&
THE BLS CLASS OF 2004

Look at what is,

and ask why.

Dream of what could be,

and ask why not.

THANK YOU TO THE TEACHERS AND STAFF AT BLS!

Alan Shapiro and Marie Lee

Senior Section

In ten years, I will be...

Older, wiser, and also a hobo using my diploma as toilet paper. Spitting out Latin words for food
Old, oh my god where has the time gone
27 years old and still living at home
a professional ballade dancer
Traveling around the world
At Harvard graduate school
Not at Harvard graduate school
In South America working as an engineer trying to better preserve the rain forest or in Alaska working on environmentally safe oil drilling
Part of Dr. Cube's posse
Sky-diving? Oh. Career wise...erm, bartending/ crime journalist
Happily married to and shagging Orlando Bloom. Daily
Still in college hopefully. My last year.
In my own house living by myself
A baller and taking car of my kids.
Finally out of school!
Nothing
Successful fashion executive happily married to How Heavy Player
Somewhere else
Depressed
Married with one kid
Shining my Oscar
A Columbian warlord, a hit man, or an engineer
A police officer
Wealthier than now
Chilling with Arma'an in the hood
A missionary doctor in Africa getting bitten by mosquitoes and will probably get malaria
Incredible!
Sitting at Harvard Square begging for money
Procrastinating, still
Living in a van down by the river on a steady diet of government cheese
A music teacher
Down Dixie packing a dip
Married, an obstetrician/gynecologist, owner of a hair salon
Still relishing my escape from high school
Hopefully doing research or teaching Marine Biology
Married w/ twins
Great and yellow
A political prisoner
A janitor at Latin
Big Pimpin' spreadin'cheese
A pharmacist
A registered nurse
Fixing your mouse
In Europe, working overseas
29
MD/PhD plus MBA(member of WHO),Directing/ managing one of the countries best hospitals, Oh yeah and married(no kids yet)
Happy, successful and traveling to Paris often
Making billions of dollars
On a boat
Drinking a beverage on my own beach
Working
Married to a rich man, living in Milton, and a successful occupational therapist
Still pondering the mysteries of life
Still searching for the meaning of life
Taking over for Emeril
A rich pharmacist working internationally
Far, far away from here...
The queen of France
Growing old with you
Back here...damn it
Famous Celebrity
Polishing my Oscars, married to Orlando Bloom while cheating on him with Adam Brody and Jake Gyllenhaal
Either an artsy fartsy bum swept off her feet by prince charming or diligently pretending to care about someone's insignificant problems in a room with four white walls
An important lawyer, successful in my job, married, and working my way up to being a judge
A homeless man, playing guitar, on Newbury Street
Whispering: "A dumbass says 'what?'," longing for Ari's sweet sweet pie...apple pie
Fat!
27
In my jet flying back to the Bahamas...so I can buy them
Married
Rich
28
A pediatrician
Not here =)
A hot, Latin lover
Working at a Music Company, Playing on tour with Big Blue, or both
Saving the world
Wondering what in the hell happened
Published
Running a business, twisting
Living in California and driving my Porsche
Alive
Going to bars with Mr. Tarpey
Plenty happy!
Furnishing my hand crafted cardboard box of a home while selling blood monthly to pay for my Hahuahd education
Eligible for parole
Eating a can of beans in a cardboard shack... on my 12 million dollar yacht
A published author and teacher, hopefully. But alive and healthy would be acceptable. Still learning
In labor, ready to kill everyone in sight
Broadway actor, working in the U.N., or a waiter in Miami
A citizen of Morocco

Best Memory

finally graduating
every 2:15
two Super Bowls
Burt in the trunk
10th-grade Chinese class
Ms. Xu stealing my sushi
Scott Sharek
Brian Griffiths
old cafeteria
prom
Marylou's in the morning
Montreal '03
Bahamas '04
Montreal '04
day off because it was too cold
Brittany on Country 99.5
car wash
madd shrimp
Parent Social
F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
being white in the Fashion/Talent show
Facing History D.C. Trip
R1 at Marylou's and R2-5 at the Zoo
the day I met Lisa Byrne
ice cream for passing the MCAS
writing class with Ms. Shevlin
quitting the softball team
quitting the track team
NH Crew (without the drama)
when Jared "shot" Darla with milk
Mr. Pitts' temper tantrums in Band and the day when he tripped over absolutely NOTHING and fell
train rides home with the Eastie crew
Brittany Regan
stampede of wild turkeys
junior year
After school in the AP Art Room
When December SATs got postponed
Barry's class 4 years (almost in a row).
The Big Cookies!
Vollcyball - all 3 years of it!
Our inappropriately hilarious art class
The day the water pipe broke
Eastern Europe '04
Kicking people out of the Wolfettes
Getting farted on by Joe
Getting belched at by Marie
Dancing in AP Calc with Ms. Davis
Vatican, Rome, Italy '03
Joe farting on Ari's head
Meeting you
When my fish had babies
Going to the boys' bathroom
Doing a 35-page paper in one night
Connections
Toronto and NYC Jazz band trips
Homeroom with Coleman
D-Krew
Fringe Festival
D.C. Trip with Ms. Freeman's class
Improv and Facing History
Twisting at the benches
6/13/03 and 6/24/03
Practice room
Cutting class with Mr. A
Neil Lender choking on a pen cap
Yitao in Chinese class
meeting all different kinds of people
Tarpey's class
leaving BLS
meeting Jabbar
breakfast
Ms. Kirkpatrick at the Prom
New Hampshire
Junior Varsity basketball
last day of school
my lunch table
senior year
horror movie marathon
when Jabbar broke the vending machine
Tarpey's class
last days of school
the beach at midnight
being kidnapped
friends and girlfriends
the day the ceiling collapsed
the day the water pipe burst
the G-Rooms
pie parties in Ms. O'Malley's room
guitar at Kassie's house
Guild 2004!
breaking into school with rent-a-cops on the chase
spending a night in the Schawbel Center for research paper
every weekend with my friends
toilet paper chained to doorways
Eastern Europe '04
being on vacation
playing cello with Encore Quartet
Italy trip 2003
receiving acceptance letter from college
winning chess matches in chess club
winning National Latin Exam medals
Ms. O'Malley's Writing class
the opening of the new, closer Starbucks
the short-lived Harry Potter club
Soohoo scoring two three-pointers in the student/faculty game
8th-grade notebook and all that innocence
NYC trip and the Chinatown bus
Shanaynay and the girls strutting their stuff on Canal Street
dead kittens in the basement
Girls' Nights
Bio II senior year
lugging home cabbage juice

Worst Memory

got caught skipping school
new ones every day
Mrs. Kirkpatrick
G-rooms
Mrs. Philips' Biology class
when Ms. Cousens made me cry
Spanish class with Ms. Ponte
Ms. Tibbets
declamation
overconfident fat girls in belly shirts
Latin class
the soul-crushing middle years
Spanish class
Physics AP
death of John Yessayan
falling down the stairs and spraining my ankle
having my wallet stolen
Ms. LeDang's class
almost failing Latin and Spanish every year
some friends are just not meant to be
each and every tardy detention, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Ponte
Ms. Insanally's class
school in general
getting caught cheating by Dr. Forman
almost getting kept back
this class... right now... and all classes... ever!
AP US History
when Mr. Lee passed away
having Mrs. Johnson senior year
Mrs. Johnson losing all of my work
waking up
AP Physics
fighting with Karyn all the time
October 4, 2000
the schoolwork
early morning tardy detentions
bad/mean teachers
people DO change, sometimes for the ultimate worst
joining the softball team
joining the track team
all-nighters
7th grade
Connections
sophomore year
freshman year Revere Beach with Ray-Ray
Physics AP
Dr. Forman and Mr. Centeio's classes
first day of school sixie year
G.E.M. and N.J.K.W.O.
when the giant squid held everyone at second lunch hostage
first day of school... every year
taking the Calc AP test!
Mrs. Montes' class
school lunch
none! Best six years of my life.
9th grade - twice
walking into the basement room at the wrong time
Mr. Veiga's projector
Shluzas
SLAM book in 8th grade
Mr. Flynn's sinister/creepy looks
getting censured sophomore year for cheating in Forman's class
sixie year
taking SATs
Mr. Akeson
getting kicked out of the cafeteria for waltzing
getting a warning notice
taking AP tests
Red Sox loss in Game 7
every class in 10th grade
being kept back twice
having Mrs. Johnson and letting her ruin my life for a year
having tardy detention and six tests on the same day
9th grade Biology
getting bitten by Arma'an
getting a C!
trying to stay awake in History class
watching minutes go by slowly
AP Physics
first day of school
deaths in 9th grade
almost going to summer school for World History
9th grade
science projects and all-nighters
Dr. Carroll the Elder
Chelsea's crazy brother
Veiga's class
Semi
Physics I
Ms. Walter's 9th grade English class
Ms. Devin's 7th grade Latin class
tardy detention
Mr. Flynn yelling at me
Mr. Haberstroh yelling at me
Ms. Kelley yelling at me
first days of school
10th grade Geometry
getting stuck in my coat!
all my people who left
AP Physics
Mrs. Johnson
being a sixie
Boston Latin School bathrooms
Ms. Durkin's class
bombing my first declamation
fights with friends
my first D -, I had a major freak-out
Mr. Luis' Precalculus class

Thank you to all my Cross Country Girlies and little Track Buddies!
You made 6 years here worth it all.
I'll miss you more than you know.
Ms Pritchard, thank you for all you've done and all you've been.
Love, Karyn

Andrew,
Congratulations on your graduation!!
Love, Mom, Dad, Danny and Renee
Mini too!!! We Love You.....

"Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly."
-Robert F. Kennedy
Mer-
Congrats on your achievement!
We're so proud of you.
-Mom, Dad, and Ashlyn

BLS Friends of Science salutes the 33 students who participated in the City-Wide Science Fair and the 12 students who participated in the State Science Fair. Particular congratulations to the many prize-winners, but we're proud of you all! Keep up the good work!

Congratulations Katie Mac
You did it, without missing a day!!! We are so proud of you.
Good luck next year.

Love,
Mum, Dad and Danny

Congratulations Ayo! Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations Andrea Caputo!!!

WE LOVE YOU,
MOM, TIMO, ALLISON
AND MARIANNA

To Cole: Congratulations on your acheivements! We are so proud of you!

With love and Admiration,
Mom, Dad and Carl

Congratulations, Michael!
-Mom, Dad, and Family

Congratulations, Katherine!
-Love,
Mom

Congratulations
Danielle Lacey!

We're Proud of You,
Love Mom, Dad, Erin,
Padraic, Brittany, Nana
Ba & Sissy

MARY MARGARET HAYS
Congratulations on six years of hard work and dedication! I am so very proud of you and wish you all the best in your bright future! Good Luck at HOLY CROSS next year!

All My Love, Mom

Congratulations to all the absolutely fabulous BLS 2004 graduates and especially to "The Drummer" of Black Tie Affair

Love,
Mom

Senior Section

Argo Farewells

Oscar

It's the day before Senior Sign-out , a whole week after I've officially been "dismissed of my duties" at BLS—finally freed from the building I have cursed over the past fouryears – and where am I? Still here—tryingto, in very few words, cap off my experience working on the Argo, and, in a broader sense, the completion of high school.

I may sound bitter, but you know what? I'm honestly happy. Sure there were thecountless nervous breakdowns about triangles that wouldn't go away, the self-delusion that spending a "Stultifying Saturday" at school would help us learn from our mistakes, and the frequent uttering of "That's it, Muching, I quit." But in retrospect, every crisis was a thrill, every emergency powwow a test of our ability to deal with the stress, and not cop out simply because "no one reads it anyway."

Argo taught me to work with other people, to compromise despite the occasional desire to kill my writers/fellow editors and feel satisfied with the final product. I'm not talking about the kind of satisfaction one gets from writing an 8 page essay the period before it's due. I mean the satisfaction of seeing—in print—the end result of long hours and (in between chariot races/Chinese-writing-contests) doing actual work (trust me, to a senior, it's a novel concept). If anything, I regret not joining sooner and suggest that any underclassman who is even the slightest bit interested in journalism, or writing... or computers ...or food...check Argo out. As horrific as 10pm at school on a Friday night may sound—it is really a setting like no other. You will laugh, yell, "do history," and, in the end, come to love the insanity.

Now to the general let-me-thank-everyone-for-everything-ever-done section of my farewell...

Mis maestros:

Dr. (if that is your real name) Neary—words fail me. You set fire to papers to reenact the French Revolution, you impersonate Mussolini and Hitler, you create a database of colleges better than Princeton Review: Thank you for the wisdom, the incessant mockery, the amazing advice. A certain member of the class of 2006 may one-up me in stalking, but expect me to bug you in the future. Signora Myette—thanks for making me a bigger Italophile than I thought possible. Ms. Sylvester and Mr. Montague—for true guidance during a year of . Keitt—math may not be my thing, but I loved your class. Flynn—I still may not know the difference between "healthy" and "healthful," but thank you for your commitment, often twisted sense of humor, and general coolness. Many thanks to the rest of my teachers (and a specific few) for putting up with me when it didn't seem worth it. Trust me, I listened.

Mis compañeros:

SJ and Kassie: in terms of writers/editors, Sports had the largest staff this year. Thank you for keeping it running. Sam/Courtney: screw up and die. I mean... I have full faith in your abilities (honestyly, I do). To the teach-Oscar-Chinese-because-hehas-nothing-better-to-do posse (especially wo de song shu, Yan Emily) : wo hai bu xiang sha ni men.

To my favorite-OCD-Forum-Editor-of-Doom: thanks for the late-night rides, the companionship, and smartness-aura apparently transferable via AIM.

To my Editor-in-Chief: I know you're off to do big things in D.C. etc. etc., but you're one I don't think I need to say goodbye to. You must know, if our ESP extends past school-lunch money, how much your friendship means to me.

Emilia: That I survived this year at all is miracle. With you I have made so many memories (R3, #1111,P.R., lessons); thank you for being my stalker, my therapist, my best friend, and so much more.

O sí, a mi querida familia:

Padres Narciso, Hilda/Eli/Emilio/Ricky/Tía/Mamá: POR TODO (podria llenar un periodico entero dandoles las gracias) CLASS OF 2004: JUNE 6, 2004—beyond; Let's live it up.

Ariane

I think that whenever *Argo* and BLS come to my mind in the future, they will be accompanied by a long, mental sigh, similar to the one I might give if pondering a bittersweet, whirlwind romance, or a litter box that needs scooping.

Advice is in order, but really, I shouldn't be giving any. But since nobody at this school has ever let lack of qualifications stop them from doing their job, I don't see why I can't follow their example.

A lot of people seem to assume, right from the beginning, that BLS is something to fight. The problem with treating the school as an adversary is that you're facing something a lot bigger, older, and tougher than you, which also happens to be made of brick. You can batter away at it all you want, and it will imperturbably quote Latin at you until you collapse out of sheer frustration.

The best method, in my opinion, is to pretend, whenever possible (and it isn't, always—but that's where the Robitussin comes in), that BLS is not a single entity, but a collection of individuals. It would seem obvious, but you must be aware that there is something more than stone and plaster in these old walls, something dark and sinister. Possibly virgins' blood. Whatever it is, it melds the poor souls in this building into something very large and very scary. Instead of kowtowing to it, though, or offering a sacrifice of a pig's head (though that's always a good idea), the only thing you can do is separate it out into its component parts, and attempt to interact with them. Some of them will still be scary—it's unavoidable, there will always be a couple beetles in any bag of trail mix—but at least they're just people who use the faculty bathrooms just like the rest of us.

The answer, of course, is curl up in that dark corner near room 012 and wonder why, why, why he couldn't have stuck in the good old 0000's, where all he had to deal with was Romans and Pharisees. I tried that a couple of times before realizing that divine assistance just wasn't for me, and I'd have to stick to fortune cookies for guidance on my life-path.

Thank-you's (only relatives and friends need read beyond this point): Mom and Dad for weaning me on Gary Larson and other off-color humor, *Argo* people for keeping me focused (hah!), non-*Argo* people for distracting me (or at least giving me an excuse), Mr. Aversa, Mr. Barry for being a worthy adversary, and Mr. Fulton for telling me that "I was what Communist Russia needed" (and sometimes for being a worthy adversary). To everyone else I should be grateful for, you know who you are, and to everyone who has earned my enmity, I know who you are.

Meredith

OOOooookkk. I have to share my pearls of senior wisdom with all of you still suffering within the iron fist of BLS. Just three words sum up my six years at BLS: Don't Sweat It. Just do your best and be happy with it.

This is not to say that you can blow off school completely—you can't. And still, for the most part you have to treat people with respect, whether you feel like they deserve it or not (haven't I learned that the hard way). Also, there are more ways to learn than in a classroom. Try to learn as much as you can through experience – write more than your English assignments, find internships in areas that interest you, take classes that you are interested in (and outside of school, if BLS doesn't have it), take a trip to work on improving a language that you are studying in school. If you put your mind to it, you can have a pretty decent life outside of high school, and things will turn out ok – don't sweat your grades. One thing I have learned is that if you are doing something for the right reasons, then it will work out. Really. Live your life so that you'll have good stories to tell to your grandkids. Ha, ha. Yeah, I'm serious. Make as much of you can out of the resources and opportunities that BLS offers – and then find more.

And now to thank those who helped me to make it out of BLS alive: firstly, I should thank my parents for supporting me in everything I have chosen to do and for allowing me to learn the important things by myself. And Ashlyn for waking me up and making my toast. And then all the amazing teachers at BLS who have kept me on my toes: to Ms. Middleton for teaching my sixie self how to write and for always speaking your mind; to S-Bal for approaching your job with passion and for your idealism; to Ms. Freeman for constantly challenging me and for being online to answer my questions at 3 AM; to the departed Ms. Zitney for being the only human being capable of teaching me math; Ms. Wight and Ms. LeDang for going out of your way to make Latin class interesting; to Ms. Tsai for everything; to DJ for growling and two hilarious and interesting years of Spanish; and to the other teachers (you know who you are) who take teaching seriously and love your subjects. A million thanks also to the BLS nurses for always listening and understanding, Mr. Montague for all the work you do, Mr. Aversa for chaperoning the trips and understanding teenagers and for putting up with the odyssey that has been Habitat; and finally to all the awesome kids I have met here at BLS and who have made it such a long, strange trip. To my friends (although this isn't a goodbye by any means) especially Helen for being the only human capable of understanding my brain and Ari for making Spain and France so fabulous, and for not killing me after ten days of hostels, ghetto class overnight trains and stumbling through foreign languages in perpetual present tense. So, it's been great, and I have to say thanks to everyone.

Muching

As a dorky sixie reading the notes of past editors, I always wondered how they felt when writing this last farewell to BLS, what I would write if I were in their place. Well, here I am now, and let me tell you: it feels awful. There's nothing worse than staring at a blank screen and trying to be meaningful without being cheesy, trying to reminisce without rambling, trying to rejoice and mourn at the same time.

It's been a sometimes frustrating, often stressful, and always hectic year, and I've relished every minute of it. It's been a year of "I really need a donut title, guys!!" and Jew Power and terse emails, midnight ice cream and crab rangoon and midnight conference calls, of barely legible dummies and using up way too many cellphone minutes, of hacking into academia and begging clueless freshmen to please, please, please have an opinion.

First, the thank yous: to my family, for accepting the fact that once a month for a week I would simply cease to exist and pretending to believe that I really was at school, on a Friday night, at 1am. To Burt and Isaac, for doing the nitty-gritty things that I tried to avoid and schlepping countless times to Harvard Square, for everything you've done without my even mentioning it, I am ever grateful. Bobby, Ying Ying, and Ke, the tech god(desse)s, I have no idea how you manage to answer the cries of the computer-impaired without wanting to strangle us for our inability to move the mouse and use our brains. The future of the Argo is safe in your hands. To my News, Forum, A&E and Sports editors; despite my inbox-clogging emails and constant haranguing, you've stuck through it. To Emily, Bora and the Copy Editing girls, for being the fastest section by far and being the only non-music-blasting, non-yelling bastion of sanity. Mr. Flynn, where do I even start? God only knows how many times you stayed up past your bedtime for us, called me over the intercom just for the hell of it, kept angry parents and angry teachers and angry people in general at bay, and introduced Spork Girl and the secret to making people envy, respect, and ever so secretly despise you, all at the same time. Thank you for always giving the off-the-record answer and for all the advice and patience you've had for us; the Argo cannot ask for a better advisor. To Charlie, Butch, Kevin, and Marsha: we'll be out in 15 minutes, I *swear.* To all my wonderful teachers, you inspired me to learn not only out of interest for your topic but also out of the greatest admiration for you.

To Erin and Oscar, for every trouble-wenching chance to reject all forms of authority, every Ward Fellowship meeting, ride home after ride home, every talking-in-my-sleep-about-staff-writers moment, every gripe I had about imitation Chinese food or subject-verb agreements, every...everything. We really need to stop finishing each other's sentences. To Emilia, from the first day of orientation, we've always been "joined at the hip". Let's hope we can keep it that way. To my crazy Eastern Europeans, we'll always have Praha. To all my friends and the Class of 2004, I'll see you on Sunday and in November.

And now, my attempt at Reflection and Sharing of Lessons Learned.

After six years here, I've regretted not believing the following three statements: 1. Don't sell yourself short. 2. In the grand scheme of things, one bad test grade won't end your life. And 3. Teachers (and administrators) are human too. I realize that most of you non-seniors will not believe this until your own graduation, but hopefully it'll come to you when you're on the verge of mental breakdown.

In the last few weeks, I've come to accept the fact that it's time to let the juniors experience the craziness that is senior year, to let next year's staff deal with their own crises and adrenaline rushes. Yet in my heart of hearts, I can't bear to leave this school, if only because I've finally figured out where all the unlocked bathrooms are. Though I whine about having to come back to school, I'll be one of the suckers who just won't, or can't, stay away. I can't remember half my science projects or any trig functions, but as I walk away from this building, it is the people on my staff and in my life that I will remember. They are the ones who have made me a better editor, a better friend, a better person, and I can't tell you how much that means to me.

Senior Section

Erin

Argo '03-'04. Seven issues, 136 pages, some of them actually good. And now it's all over, and I find myself sitting here, back against the wall. I've become the delinquent I despise, trying to think of something to say.

First, I guess, the requisite thank-you's-to-everyone. To Katie, for being my co-Editor-par-excellence. To Muching, for always picking up the phone when I called you at two am with one crisis or another, whether it was this-is-offensive-but-I-can't-censor-it-what-do-I-do or my-writer-just-had-a-moral-crisis-let's-call-half-the-senior-class-looking-for-someone-who's-against-gay-marriage, and for not always knowing what to do, but always staying on the phone until I had stopped freaking out. To my parents, for believing the unlikely-but-true "No, really, I'm going to be at school until one am tonight," and for the car (the 11 or 12 people I crammed into it every Final Friday, thank you for this, too). To Mr. Flynn for being an awesome (and not nearly as uptight as you think) advisor, to Ms. Freeman for all the help with everything, to everyone I forced to buy me Starbucks. To all my miniature Forum-ites for all the help, and for realizing that though I abused you terribly it was only out of love. To the tech boys and the one lovely lady, for knowing how to use a computer, because God knows I don't. To everyone else who made this year a trip and a half. I made some great friends here—mainly because bonding is the path of least resistance when you're trapped in a small, poorly-ventilated room for 35 non-school hours a week with nothing other than these people and a bunch of Macs to keep you company, but I love you anyway.

And, as long as I'm being formulaic, after the thank-you's come the memories. Between handing in my resignation at least ten or twelve times, chariot races in the hallways on Final Fridays, having "Strike Zone" written in permanent marker on my back, putting the fear of God into sixies with orange juice, hazing sessions, dressing our Editor-in-Chief up as a Swiss dairy maid, raising $500 in fifteen minutes, "CLOSE ALL THE F****** PAGES RIGHT NOW!!!," reassembling the entire paper on the train, provoking race wars, breaking into Harvard Med at midnight, nipple-licking contests, fighting over titles like "To Brain-Suck or Not to Brain-Suck" and whether "Sharon Silverman, Class I" is an appropriate replacement for "Sharon Silverman is a member of Class I," eating rotten beef, my mother speaking Chinese, sitting on the floor and having long intense discussions, tying carnations together 'til our fingers started to bleed, brown paper kittens that melt into spring and rewriting the words to the *Sound of Music*, writing Chinese on the board, hoarding dinner rolls from Bertucci's, going on marker-stealing expeditions sanctioned by the assistant headmaster, having a multitude of moral crises, fielding questions about what's the difference between an olive and an anchovie, whores changing to slaves and slaves changing to whores, "Is it full of dead kittens?", and trying to convince underclassmen that it is in fact a good thing to have a zest for life, it's a wonder we ever managed to produce a newspaper at all.

We were frantic together, unsanitary together (four forks for fifteen hungry people is just another thing you get used to over time), wanted to slit each other's throats together, but we pulled this off together, and that's something. We made some people angry (my tendency toward trouble-wenching is one I never quite outgrew), but I'd like to believe we also made some people think, and that's something. A few years down the line, it'll be nothing but a line on a resume—Forum Editor for her high school newspaper, whatever. Thanks to all of you for making it more than that.

Nafkote

For those of you who know me even a little (yes, including the man at the Chinese food truck) you know that a great part of my year was spent complaining about the rigors of *Argo*; so much work, I'm a senior, why do the copy-editors keeping hitting on me, etc, etc. But now that it'll be over in about two hours (that's what we call PROCRASTINATION, children) I'm feeling a bit nostalgic. And nauseous. (Thanks a lot, Chinese food truck man.) Seriously though, a significant portion of the last years has been spent in either the Mac Lab, the Photo Lab and/or Ms. Freeman's room, trying to put together a great newspaper. I'd like to think that we've succeeded, judging from the awards we received at this year's Scholastic Award Show Crap. (Judging from the feedback of our fickle readership however, I'm thinking not so much.) Even so, I can't say that I regret our hard work; it was for a good cause after all—covering textbooks.

Clearly, there is no way that A+E could have been finished without the help of many people, most especially my long-suffering assistant editor Ed (I know you hate me, but let's face it; you've only got to deal with me for about an hour and half). To my other assistant editor Zak, you made me laugh a lot and get offended a lot ,whatever that means to you. Bieta, when you were here, it was fun. When you weren't, I just had to look for you and then we had fun; thanks for the screename.

To all of you poor, sick, tortured, tormented amoebas known as non-seniors: have fun! On a more serious note though, don't let the Man (BLS) get you down. Do homework only when the teachers actually collect it, if you get Mrs. Johnson, transfer as soon as humanly possible and try to do something insane and crazy everyday; you'll get into Harvard if you do.

Now, moving away from that, I have to thank all of my friends for their constant efforts to demoralize me because of certain traits I HAD NO CONTROL OVER; it was great. I expect you all to come and visit me in New Haven (it doesn't smell as bad anymore) and if you don't, I won't remember you in my acceptance speech(es). Just remember: four hundred years and still kicking.

I know it's corny and oh-so-typical but I have to thank my family, most especially my mom and my uncle. It's because of you that I remained sane this year, especially during the college application process, a.k.a., hell. I love you all and I promise that I'll make a lot of money soon and buy you all Jaguars. Or houses, one or the other; money doesn't grow on trees you know.

Finally, I have to thank those teachers who actually tried to help me and made me cookies; I'll never forget you and I promise I'll make a lot of money soon and show you all the cool stuff I buy. You deserve it.

And to Orlando Bloom, I will be happy to marry you as soon as possible. You can find me at any one of my shady hang-outs; I'll be the hot one in the corner.

So, goodbye everyone; it's been a trip that I'm proud to say I've survived and a trip that I'm not likely to forget anytime soon.

Katie Mc

While trying to write this farewell, I have gone through all the advice I have ever received in my life. Unfortunately I really have nothing profound to impart to you. What I will say at the risk of sounding cliché is that I have found the two most important things in life are kindness and compassion. They lead to friendship, they lead to a feeling of accomplishment, they lead to success, but most importantly they lead to true happiness.

A Creole proverb reads, "Tell me whom you love, and I will tell you who you are." We are nothing without the people who love and support us. The people who make us laugh, console us when we cry, who know our fears, and share our dreams. These are the people who make life not only bearable, but special and filled with joy.

Mom: You are the perfect example of a loving, caring, patient woman. I know that you would do anything for me, and that your love is unconditional. Thank you for always standing by me and supporting me.

Dad: You were at every game with a smile on your face no matter what – the perfect expression of love. Your tidbits of advice ("just work on being happy and humble") have kept me going through these past six years. Thank you for always being there for me.

Tim: You have always believed in me and my ability, and that in and of itself means the world to me. I am convinced there is no better older brother in the entire world. You are a wonderful role model. I hope you realize how much I look up to you and how special I think you are. You inspire me. Thank you for always believing in me.

Joe: You are the one person who can always make me smile, the one person who makes me completely and utterly happy. You have made my year truly special and given me a new reason to smile.

Cole and Sharon: Thank you for always being there to listen to my worries or to the latest thing I have been stressing over. You have both been very true and loyal friends. Thanks for always trying to make me lighten up and for teaching me that in the end the only thing that matters is what I think of myself, not what others think of me.

For everyone else who has helped me along the way; my teachers, especially Mr. Bunker, Mr. Barry, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Ms. O'Malley, and Mrs. Moran; my guidance counselors Ms. Sylvester and Mr. Montague; Ms. Gallant and Mr. Flynn; my neighborhood girls; Erin, my co-editor; MTBA, and many more....thank you!

Trude

My experience at BLS was a lot of bad and a smattering of really amazingly good. I've learned from everything that I started, finished or never began at all. Every activity, procrastinated assignment, extracurricular endeavor, conversation, fight or *Argo* issue has taught me something, and for that I don't regret a single second of the past five years, although it was and will always be purgatory. The mindless workload and the crushing bureaucracy made it all seem endless and hopeless, but looking back, there are bright spots too numerous to recount.

But it all comes down to one thing: the people made it all worth it. In times of greatest tedium, torture and despair, I found myself surprised and cheered by the little things I learned from or about classmates. I may be half full of bitterness and hate for BLS the institution, but I have a lot of admiration, gratitude and love for the people. It only seems fitting, then, that I fill this space with you.

To Mr. Aversa, Ms. Arnold, Ms. Tsai and Ms. Freeman: your classes and support made my schedule bearable. To Mr. Montague: you got me through it and I cannot express how grateful I am.

To my family: I really do appreciate everything you've done and put up with for seventeen years (except those embarrassing moments) and everything that's to come. I love you.

To my chatmates in Spanish and Writing: you provided relief from it all. To my math class: I loved the country club days. To those who sat next to me in classes: thanks for putting up with my talkative nature and helping me get through those long R1s and longer R7s.

To the *Argo* staff: we have issues, all of us, and you made it so enjoyable, even/especially when I was wondering if I were insane to be at school at 11 pm on a Friday night. Oh, and alternate Fulton quote here.

To my lunch tables over the years: without you guys (purveyors of laughter and fond memories) I can honestly say that I never would have made it through most days, so thanks for your ears, advice, stress relief, singing, commiseration, silent companionable chewing, and all those desserts that I scrubbed off you. Ditto to each year's gym class buddies, with a different sort of exercise for the jaw muscles.

To everyone: thanks for putting up with me, I appreciate it and I couldn't have done it without you. To GSA: I wish I'd done more, but oh the fun times we had. To the sixie year Monday afternoon J.P. Licks trio: I think you helped me begin an addiction while we floundered our way through that first year in this place. To the fellow makers of dealies: you know what I'm talking about, and man, those were some good times that made an unforgettable season that much more unforgettable. To those people I bonded with on the train from Berlin to Krakow and on the bus around Poland to Prague: thanks for the company, the conversation, and the necessary light moments; you are part of an extraordinary experience. To the shoulders I leaned on: you were good shoulders. To my best friends: I love you, don't forget me (at least not until you have a better excuse than distance)...and thank you for everything, be it past, present, or future.

...I've done my time in purgatory. And although I'm not good at the whole religiön thing, I think I'm gonna like what comes next.

So Fight the Power, Go Red Sox, and So Long, Suckers.

Katie C.

Yea, so it is finally over. For those of you who entered Latin as a sixie, I know you have spent quite a bit of time wondering when it will all be over. Sure, time seems to drag on and on, but when you look back, you may actually realize that it hasn't dragged as much as you think. It was like that for me.

Naturally, there are gazillions of thing I wish I had and hadn't done, but there's no point in dwelling on should-haves. What's done is done and there's no point in regretting. Regret wastes time. Time better spent on doing other things, namely enjoying life. "The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware," said Henry Miller. I agree. Just make sure you don't get too drunk: the consequences are often dire.

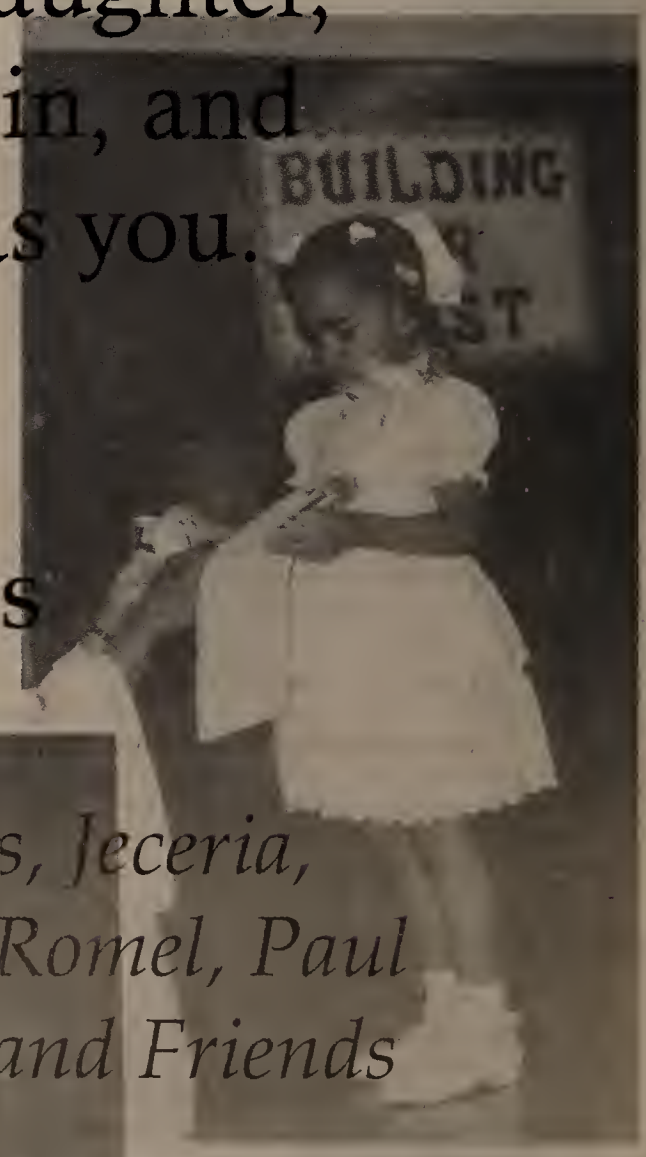
Now for a piece of wisdom: Most people will treat you like a condom. Use you, and then throw you away. In fact, there are times when you may feel entirely invisible. The so-called friends that are around you fail to notice your presence because they have no need for you. These are the people who will come to you time and again to ask for help at the last minute when they have nowhere else to turn, but will forget all about you until their next time of need. On the other hand, true friends are the ones you can trust to the fullest, those with whom you can share every joy and every sorrow. They are hard to come by. If you are lucky, you may come across several in your life. Thanks LM and EC. All I'm saying is: be invisible, but never cease to search for those few true friends. I wish the best of luck to you all.

Congratulations Camille!

We are all so proud of you

If you are rejoicing now
If your heart is filled with awe
If you find that you are sighing all
the way through
Then you might have some idea
just a hint of how it feels
to say it is over
Now we just want to remind you
It feels great to have a daughter,
a sister, a friend, a cousin, and
auntie who's as great as you.
Once again,





CONGRATULATIONS

-Mom, Dad, Régine, Huggens, Jeceria,
Raisha, Victoria, André, Varda, Romel, Paul
Charnique...your entire Family and Friends



A&E

All Access to ASIAN NIGHT 2004

By Lin Ma, I
Staff Writer

What is it about Boston Latin School's annual Asian Night that draws a crowd which fills the auditorium to the brim? Perhaps it is the variety of performances, from ancient instruments to modern pop dances. There's the food afterwards as well, which allows audiences to sample a charming array of culinary delights from Asia. Fashion enthusiasts also receive a nice treat of colorful and cultural outfits flowing from students-turned-models. The show's reputation alone draws audience members from previous years, along with the core support of family, teachers and friends of the performers. For those unfamiliar with this cultural exhibit from the Eastern Hemisphere, picture an evening full of song and dance all performed by talented peers. An event like this isn't easy to pull off every single spring, but the members of Boston Latin School ASIA (Asian Students In Action) have been doing it for the past decade.

Preparations for Asian Night begin far earlier than the rehearsals and auditions. The key to Asian Night's success is the scrupulous organization that is the trademark of ASIA's activities. Each year the club officers seek to surpass the previous years' performances, and each year the standard is raised. On April 13, ASIA's exclusive club meetings were held solely for its executive officers. After the general meeting which included members, they met and discussed the steps the coordinators of the show were taking toward making Asian Night possible. Auditions had already taken place in the winter and the performances had been selected by the show coordinators, but the significant details needed to be tended to.

Each executive officer played a role in coordinating the show. The food after Asian Night needed to be selected, negotiated and acquired or made. Dining coordinators were assigned to guide a staff of volunteers to serve the food to hungry show-goers. To assure the safety of all involved with the show, whether they were watching it or participating in it, security directors enlisted the help of the Boston Police as well as volunteer security guards. The artistic talent of ASIA members was also displayed on the stage. A design team was assembled to paint a thematic background, and the results were stunning. The pricing of the tickets was not too steep: a show ticket was five dollars and a ticket including access to food was two dollars more. The program booklets handed out to audience members should not be overlooked. The impressive publication is a combination of a literary and artistic styles, including submissions from students, as well as a show agenda.



PHOTO BY WILSON LIN, II

The most hectic time of Asian Night was the week of the event. Dress rehearsals took place the day before, with an extensive delay which prompted many impatient participants to grumble. Despite the stall, the mock show ran smoothly.

The performers of the various acts themselves are very serious about their participation in Asian Night. Many groups began to assemble as early as the end of the last school year, and started practicing during the summer. The auditions are highly competitive and more than half of the potential acts are cut. The remaining performers are not allowed to slack in the quality of their routine. Most non-vocal acts practice at least once a week for over half a year to bring glory to Asian Night. A final selection of 19 acts fill the slots, including those in the pre-show. The tradition of beginning the evening with a flash show was rekindled by a few techies who created an intricate and technical rendition of a slideshow, infused with images from various ASIA-sponsored events during the school year. The array of performances ranged from traditional Vietnamese choreography to a song on the *koto*, a Japanese string instrument, to a Korean pop music video come to life by a group of gifted dancers. The careful selection of such variety was bound to entertain any member of the audience.

Seats filled quickly when the clock struck 5:30 on that highly anticipated Friday. The show was not delayed. This was mostly due to the quick thinking of the staff, who were prepared and resourceful enough to resolve many mishaps, including repairing a torn projector minutes before the show's start. The pre-show was performed for arriving guests, and was as astounding in talent as the rest of the show. One gifted junior even wrote her own song, lyrics and music to perform. Introductions were made by six emcees who greeted and humored the audience. The fashion show was shorter than those of years past, and lacked the diversity of costumes as well, but a lion dance filled in the time gap.

The acts started soon after, with only a few minutes between performances during which emcees explained their significance. Many fell into the trap of being slightly repetitive with moves or lacking enthusiasm during performances, but the unique style of each dance enhanced the quality of the show. The lively highlights of the show included the energetic group Just 6, which gracefully mirrored moves from a Korean pop star to the tiniest tilt; the bouncy Banghra performed for its second year on behalf of the Desi Society; the duet Harmony in Time which featured elaborate costumes and hairpieces that added to the elegance of the traditional Chinese dance; and the group Green Essence, which consisted of quirky traditional Vietnamese dance routines and used scarves to adorn moves. Three vocal performances were sprinkled throughout the night, with a tribute song to the senior class as the last act. The hungry crowd who held meal tickets was seated after the show in the cafeteria to be served a plate full of various goodies. Although the food was mostly that of takeout restaurants, guests enjoyed their meal and opted for seconds and even thirds.

After all the hustle and bustle of preparations, the tired and relieved members of Asian Night 2004 achieved a success that has now set the standard for shows in the years to come.

Vacation from the Ordinary

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

I step into the Museum of Fine Arts and after sitting down and catching my breath after my brief run, I take a look around. Sadly enough, I haven't been here for a few years and I feel the need to reacquaint myself with my surroundings. I slowly get up, salute a few suspicious-looking security guards and start to stroll around to try and really absorb everything.

After about five minutes of staring at a wall, I shake myself awake and trudge over to the information desk, asking about the *Gauguin Tahiti* exhibit. Twenty minutes later, I'm still babbling as the woman nervously points me in the right direction after casting significant looks at the security guards in the vicinity. At this point, I beat a hasty retreat and scurry off to the exhibit.

For those mathematicians out there who need lines, exact dimensions and if possible, a few gratuitous Escher figures, this is not the exhibit for you.

For the rest of the human race, do not miss this exhibit.

Many people aren't familiar with Paul Gauguin, although he is one of the leading French painters of the Postimpressionist period. In particular, he is renowned for having developed a conceptual method of representation, a significant step in 20th century art. Earlier in his career, the Impressionist artists who dominated the art scene while Gauguin was growing up especially influenced him. Later on however, he abandoned his previous imitative art to indulge himself in unhindered color, now influenced by Pissarro. It was at this point in his career that Gauguin began to favor broad expanses of flat color over small, visible brush strokes. His new technique, which he called "Synthetism", introduced an innovative color scheme that suggested a sense of heightened reality. He hoped, he said, to achieve "the translation of a thought into a medium other than literature." Beginning in 1891, Gauguin lived in Tahiti, painting some of his most well known masterpieces; the abovementioned exhibit contains his art from this dynamic period.



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What I stepped into can only be described as a land of color—the canvases burst with vitality, inviting you to visit with their inhabitants. (A word of caution: DO NOT actually "visit" with them. The security guards do not accept this excuse. Something about vandalism.) For the most part, the pieces were oil on canvas, a medium that perfectly suits the range of emotions and thoughts the artist wishes the observer to connect with. One painting in particular which captivated me was entitled *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* It depicts three sitting women, all looking pensively off into the distance. Two sit with their chins in hand, seemingly looking right at the audience while the third sits with her bare back shifted towards the canvas and face turned over one shoulder. It is clear that Gauguin wishes to illustrate as best as he can the worry and uncertainty which plagues us all as human beings. Our very lives are transient and, as a result, all we are able to do is continually think and philosophize about the Great Beyond and the murky depths of our past. More than the inspiration however, it is the actual portrayal of the women, which makes this piece so meaningful and so timeless. The look in each woman's eyes grabs your heart, so much so that you are unable to tear your eyes away. Even the woman whose eyes are cast down to the ground, back turned towards all, forces you to look at her, making you wonder about the troubles and hardships which force such a splendid woman to now be bowed down to the ground.

There are many other Gauguin works on display in this exhibit, each one trying to bring about the visual translation of thoughts, a major concern of the artist. As I walked out, I felt somehow lifted from the ostensibly commonplace world now encircling me. I actually felt that I could see the thought placed into each brushstroke and the deliberateness of the colors, deceiving one into believing that this is just another happy outpouring of art, when in reality it is a commentary on the fragility and depth of humanity.

The next exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts is Games for the Gods: The Greek Athlete and the Olympic Spirit; *it is running from July 21 to November 28*

Congratulations Megan
and best wishes to the
class of 2004
Love,
Mom, Pop, Sarah, and
Tango

Kathleen Harrington
"Count all your blessings, remember your dreams."
We're so proud of you!
Congratulations!
Love,
Dad, Mom,
Kerry, Meghan and Betsy

CONGRATULATIONS

Silvia Chan, Tim Chan, William Chan, Jeanny Chung, Edna Chui, Nancy Wong, David Wong, Ray Tse, Henry Wu, Ian Chong, Kevin Dong, Philip Lee, Steven Stang, Susan Ma, Anne Wu, Tammy Gee, Karen Chui, Nick Wen, Eric Chan, Peter Trang, Danny Chin, Lisa Diep, Andrew Huang, Yitao Lui, Fang Yuan, Taha Jafre, Joanne Gee, Jimmy Luc, Ying Lang, Suzy Chan, Chris Abramo, Derek Troung, Jessica Fong, Michelle, Fahad, Pei, Darwin, Marina, Sam, Garfy, Adri, Philson.
From Alex

Spotlight
Noah McKenna



By Anna George, I
Contributing Writer

It's fitting that one of my earliest Boston Latin School memories of Noah McKenna is from music class in the seventh grade. He was sitting in the back of the room making paper airplanes, humming and making fun of our teacher. I was sitting next to him talking, laughing and counting the minutes until the end of the period. Suddenly, our teacher looked up from her piano, screamed that we were getting "too chummy" and moved our seats.

That was not the end of our friendship nor was it the end of Noah's music career.

Noah's friends affectionately call him buffoon, runt, crack-head, Afro-thunder and caveman. His mom calls him a mistake.

Noah takes delight in the fact that he has been nicknamed "hair-man." His friends coined this nickname when in tenth grade he underwent an experiment in which he was attempting to see how long his hair could grow. The longer it grew, the less people talked to Noah, and the easier it became for his classmates to hide behind its enormous berth and sleep during Latin class. Since then he has undergone a variety of hair transformations which earned him the Class of 2004 superlative "Best Hair," only kept in check by the fact that he and his friends collectively captured the "Biggest Scrub" superlative.

Noah has been playing the trombone for the past six years. He is not only a prominent member of Boston Latin's Concert and Jazz bands, but has also performed with Berklee's Summer Music Program and with City Music for the past two years. He spends hours practicing, talking about music and attending jazz performances. Noah also knows how to have fun with music, no matter how seriously he seems to take it. For instance, during the Holiday Concert a few years ago, Noah took it upon himself to make the concert a little more festive by putting Christmas lights in his then very full head of hair, illuminating not only his 'fro but the entire trombone section.

When Noah is not using his pen to tap the beat of whatever song is stuck in his head, he can he found doodling just about anything. He thoroughly enjoys drawing and his works have been featured both in the halls of the art wing and in The Register. During his junior and senior years at Latin, Noah was involved in the Advanced Placement Art classes.

In addition to being an exceptional musician and a gifted artist, Noah is an athlete. Though claims have been made that he "runs like a duck," Noah has been a member of Boston Latin's Varsity soccer team for several years. He has been playing soccer since he was a child in the JP soccer leagues and has continued playing every Monday night during the summer.

Noah will not only be remembered by his peers for his remarkable artistic, musical and athletic achievements, but also for his personality and his gift to turn any typically boring situation into something very amusing. Noah's vivacity is exhibited by the stories he tells, by his ability to laugh at himself and by his generally laid-back approach towards life. His friends repeatedly tell the story of how when he was a child he would pick cigarette butts off the ground and eat them. He denies that he has continued that habit and insists that he has come a long way since then. One of the most easy-going people you will ever meet, Noah will find much success next year in New York, where he will be attending Bard College.

Too Much Sex, Not Enough Culture

By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

Everyone enjoys lamenting about the lost youth of the world today. No one is as polite as he used to be, no one understands what's really important anymore, yadda, yadda, yadda. We've all heard similar speeches before, usually while trapped in the confines of our kitchens and nervously picking at the remnants of what used to be meatloaf. I myself loathe accepting these words as wisdom. After all, it must be understood that times change and what seemed important to one generation would just be silly for another. The all-encompassing fear felt in the sixties that Russia might at any moment bomb us, obliterating all life in America, is a bit out of place in an age where our president is doing a good enough job of obliterating life in America without any outside help.

There are, however, always a few moral values and practices about which previous generations have a right to lament, one of which is the lack of culture among today's teenagers. I don't mean being able to speak five different languages and extending a pinky while drinking tea. What I do mean is harboring a certain appreciation for the arts, be it visual art, theater or literature. If we're all honest with ourselves, it cannot be denied that America's newfound title as "The Land of the Fat and the Uncultured" is at least partially accurate. It cannot also be denied that, for the most part, the uncultured cross-section of our population lies mainly among the teenagers and youth of the country.

Case in point: ask the average adolescent what he'll be up to during the weekend and the answer will almost inevitably be something to the effect of, "Sex. Hanging with friends. Sex. Recreational sex." Nowadays, concerts are the medium of art most kids are familiar with, and let's face it, with contemporary music it's pretty much hit-or-miss as to what types of music are truly art. (Ska? Punk? Art forms? Shoot me now.) Most people would probably consider it naïve of me to actually expect teenagers to spend their precious time viewing foreign movies, watching plays or, God forbid, visiting museums. In a way, it's sad that our generation doesn't feel the need to explore the various venues of art. Obviously, it's not as if all people under 25 are boycotting theater or anything as drastic as that; teenagers still go to see plays and visit museums and whatnot. The problem is that the incentive to open their artistic horizons usually comes not from themselves but from a teacher who is taking his entire class on a field trip or from parents who are desperate to cram something "useful" into their children before they get shipped off to college. It is becoming more and more apparent that many teenagers see education as something confined to the walls of their respective schools. They view the world outside of these walls through snapshots of what they feel is most important: their friends, work, hangouts and families. Although these are indeed huge components of what makes up our surroundings, such a limited view of what lies waiting can only prove to be detrimental to anyone's maturity and emotional growth.

Certainly, most standards, even the so-called unalterable moral standards of the age, are relative. By no one's standards, however, could this generation be called the people of the next Renaissance or the people who will extend culture to all who reach for it. We might be the people who create an uber-super-computer or at least the blueprints for one. This practicality and black-and-whiteness that has been programmed into us has proven to be the cause of our current artistic decline. Although seemingly not as important as figuring out what all of the digits in π are, the lack of exposure to art makes us only half of what we are meant to be and will not allow us to achieve our full potential.

So, for Christ's sake, the next time you come across a museum, whether on the way from and or en route to recreational sex, just stop in. You might be surprised to see that many artists have found recreational sex just as interesting a subject matter.

Arma virumque cano: Hollywood sings off-key

By Zachary Trayes-Gibson, I
Assistant A&E Editor

The sword and sandal epic of old is back and kicking with Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*, and much like the countless iterations of the ancient battle before it, the film is exactly what it promises and nothing more. And I mean nothing. Even though *Air Force One* was a rough rider, Petersen has been seeing diminishing returns in terms of his filmmaking since *Das Boot (1981)*. This flick is no exception.

The film is ostensibly based on Homer's *Iliad*, though only the bare bones of the story remain intact. Hector (Eric Bana) and Paris (Orlando Bloom), princes of Troy, pay a visit to Menelaus (Brendan Gleeson), King of Sparta, to formalize a peace between the nation and the Greek city-state. During their stay, Paris shacks up with Helen, the wife of the philandering Menelaus, on the sly and the two proceed to pledge their eternal love for each other and other such ridiculous notions. They decide the best course of action is, of course, to sail back to Troy together. Hector figures out Paris' little secret once they're all en route to Troy, but rather than sail back to Sparta and fix everything, he gives Paris a stern talk and stays on the course. All this makes Menelaus extremely mad, so he seeks help from his brother Agamemnon (Brian Cox). His secret weapon is Achilles (Brad Pitt), supposedly the greatest warrior alive, though he resembles nothing more than a beach blonde surfer looking for some tasty waves. Agamemnon agrees to help his brother in regaining Helen, though his true motive is to add Troy to his list of conquests. Thus the greatest war of all time begins.



Courtesy of Google.com

Or so Petersen would have us believe. The budget of nearly $200 million seems to have bought precious little besides a few thousand leather skirts for men. There are no big special effects to speak of, unless you consider turning a handful of extras into a computer-generated army of 50,000 a large feat. The technique, however, has already been done to death in the *Lord of the Rings* films, making the massive armies of Greece and Troy about as impressive as a floor strewn with little green army men. The grandeur and the spectacle are all there—it's just done in a way that makes the viewer nothing more than indifferent.

Unfortunately, the acting is just as scattershot as the direction. The cast is very impressive on paper, but much of the true talent is wasted in efforts to recreate the epic bluster with which Charleton Heston delivered his lines in *Ben Hur* and *The Ten Commandments*. This wooden delivery, however, is exactly what is required of the Greek invaders for an epic of this nature, so the few actors who break from it seem off their game. The usually-solid Brian Cox falls into this trap and enthusiastically chews the scenery as Agamemnon, thus breaking the atmosphere of the epic. Brendan Gleeson plays Menelaus straight as a loud, angry man and fares much better only because he seems to blend in with the rest. Brad Pitt, this being his "comeback" picture, acquits himself well, despite a forced foreign accent, a role limited to killing hundreds at a time and squinting off into the distance pensively. The Trojans fare much better in the acting department. Bloom plays Paris as the naive and vapid man with some success while Bana and Peter O'Toole (Priam) are good because they are the only characters who you care about.

The root of the film's flaws is that much of the story has been left out or changed from the source material. A ten-year war is squeezed into just over two weeks, resulting in a rush from major plot point to major plot point throughout the movie. The deaths of Patroclus and Ajax both come so suddenly that one only realizes who they were and their significance after they're dead. The gods, who play such a large part in the *Iliad*, are completely omitted (a move for political correctness), and about half of the story goes with them. Achilles' past is only hinted at and there is no golden apple for Paris, thus removing much of the motivation for his elopement with Helen. Numerous other errors abound, although the most glaring is the death of a certain king who assuredly dies back home in Greece.

At some point in the film, most viewers will lose interest and stop taking the movie seriously. Whether it be in the middle of a battle, when all the soldiers make a dance circle for two main characters to duke it out, when Aeneas shows up, or at any of Pitts' lines, it will happen. When it does, one's enjoyment of the movie will increase drastically. Granted that Petersen was trying to capture the human angle by portraying both the Greeks and Trojans as equally human, the film finds its "Achilles' heel" in forcing the audience to ambivalence.

Sixth Sense with MA Twist

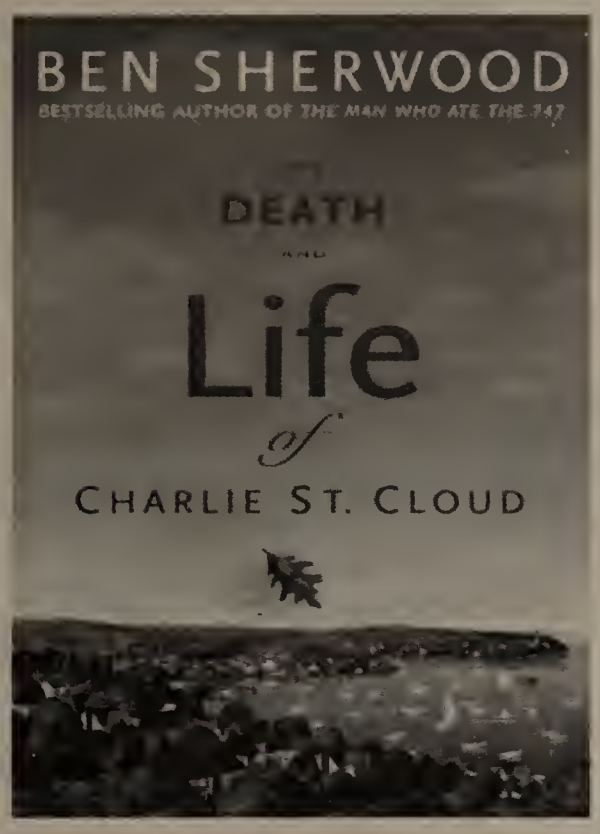
By Daniela Huynh, II
Contributing Writer

Ben Sherwood made his debut as a novelist in August 2000, with his first novel *The Man Who Ate 747*. Now he presents his second novel, *The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud*, in which a young boy barely escapes a harrowing car accident that takes the life of his little brother.

The story begins as a flashback, observations made by a firefighter named Florio Ferrente. In the small town of Marblehead, Massachusetts, two boys are on their way home from a Red Sox game. Both are too young to be driving the car that they "borrowed" and neither sees the drawbridge that they hit head-on. Ferrente manages to retrieve the boys from the wreckage but is only able to save one. By doing this, he explains the idea behind the title of the novel, *The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud*. It is the miracle of reviving a once-dead boy and allowing him to continue on with his life.

After reading a few pages, you will notice that the novel is incredibly easy to read. The language is not difficult and the novel is not at all complex.

Twenty years later, Charlie St. Cloud walks through life living in the memories of his younger brother, Sam. Charlie is gifted with the ability to speak to spirits in limbo – part of the pact that he and Sam made to never be separated. Charlie resides in his hometown, working as a caretaker at Waterside Cemetery; he keeps in touch with Sam by playing catch every night with his brother's spirit. If Charlie wanders beyond Marblehead over a long period of time, Sam's spirit fades and Charlie, breaking the pact, loses the connection with is brother. Nevertheless, the loyal Charlie feels that his sole duties in life are to play ball with his little brother every night and to help confused spirits find their way through Waterside. Charlie's devotion to his brother is at the same time touching and tedious. Sherwood makes Charlie seem



underdeveloped as a character and even one-dimensional. This flaw is also apparent in many of the characters in the story.

Meanwhile at Waterside Harbor, Tess Carroll prepares to go on her first solo sail around the world. She sails on her ship, the *Querencia*, or "safe place", to set a world record and to honor her deceased father. On the journey, Tess encounters a freak storm and goes overboard. She wakes up in her room at Waterside and later, by chance, encounters Charlie and falls in love. The crux of Charlie's predicament becomes his indecision whether to hold on to the promise he made to his brother or to let go of the past and make a future with Tess.

With the establishment of Tess into the plot, the story becomes less of a monotonous lecture about the day-to-day life of Charlie St. Cloud. Although the meeting of Tess and Charlie does seem a bit too coincidental, Sherwood uses it to join the two halves of the story and does a decent job of fitting the pieces together. The ending is unexpected and refreshing, being the only major surprise in the novel. Overall, the story behind *The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud* is good but not great: something you can read in one sitting and totally forget the next day. However, not to discount all the positive aspects of the story, Sherwood does offer hope and inspiration for many, especially in the aftermath of September 11. He reminds us that those who have passed on have not left us; they speak to us in dreams and are still watching over us. It is because we are still connected to them that we are never alone.

Congratulations Alexa!

Love Mom, Dad, & Michael

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Nadine! Save the Animals!!

Love Mom, Dad and Sean

Congratulations Tim and the Class of 2004

Love, Dad, Mom, Mike and Liz

Congratulations, Stephen! Job Well Done! Love, Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS

Ian Chong, Henry Wu, Jessica Fong, David Wong, Michelle and the class of 2004.

From Alex 's Family

Spotlight
Lily Mooney



By Nafkote Tamirat, I
A&E Editor

It was a sunny day; birds were singing and God seemed to be smiling down on the world. I was with two friends, one of whom was Lily. We turned a corner and found ourselves face to face with a giant grizzly bear that came charging at us, claws extended and mouth open in a ferocious roar; as my friend and I cowered in the corner, Lily fearlessly approached the bear, roaring with her famous Amazon cry...

That didn't happen. But Lily is still pretty damn cool.

I've known Lily since orientation and the basic gist of that story is that we didn't really start talking again until eighth grade. Lily was born in the usual way, but of course her parents soon felt the need to bring her home. This is where the plot thickens. This was no ordinary suburb. This was New Jersey.

Lily has never embellished on her years in the armpit of the United States. Once in a while, she mutters something about a "house" and some of her "friends" but in general, I sense that her years there have become a blur of highways and bad smells. Luckily, her family moved to Boston!

After doing some boring stuff, Lily made it to Boston Latin School as a sixie. Although she has become well known for her active participation in the arts here at Latin School, Lily reveals that her interest goes back a bit farther.

If you mention Lily's name at Boston Latin, many people think of the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe she has co-captained for the past two years. Anyone who spends five minutes with Lily knows that she may be the funniest thing since the New Kids on the Block. Her dedication and hard work have guaranteed the troupe a large cult following.

The same energy which invigorates improv at every meeting is doubled when it comes to scripted work. Lily has been acting with Center Stage Productions for the past two years. Her first appearance was in last year's *The Dining Room* and the director, Genevieve Shattow, remarks that "working with Lily is like working with no one else." Lily next wowed audiences this year in *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*. Lily received an acting award for her performance and started the growing trend of shapeless jumpers in assorted colors. As yet another testimony to her talent, she has been a producer of the club for the past two years.

No arts spotlight for Lily would be complete without a tribute to her musicality. Lily has been playing the trumpet in the school band since sixie year and to this day, I am moved to tears when I remember her rendition of the Beatles' classic *Yellow Submarine*.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Lily is that there is no one like her. She's one of those hard-to-find people who in every way manage to astonish you and force you to look beyond your comfort zones and find a new horizon. What an odd moment: two am and it's almost as if this is the final step to saying a real good-bye to one of my best friends. I know it's been said before, but I think one of the greatest and truest compliments I can pay to Lily is that one's life is never quite the same after meeting her. By no means is she perfect, but then again, maybe that's just part of her eccentric appeal.

What's Sizzling in the Theaters This Summer

By Victoria Bartolome, II
Staff Writer

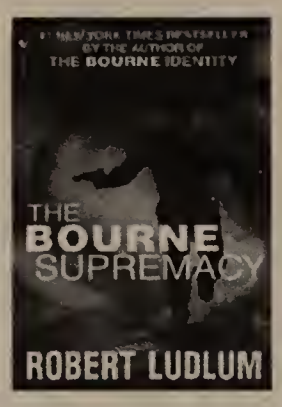


Summer is just around the corner, and although some of us have booked our days with jobs, volunteer work, classes, and other business, there's always time to catch a good summer flick. So what's on for this summer? You'll find that there are a good number of both long-awaited and long-forgotten sequels.

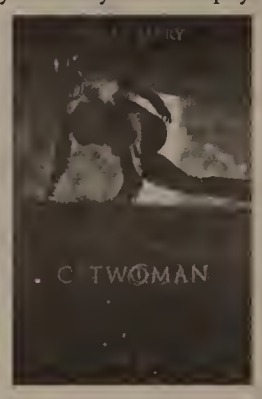
If you're yearning for some action this summer, a Vin Diesel flick seems like the first source for satisfaction, but actually he's kicking off the summer with a movie mixed with both action and sci-fi, *The Chronicles of Riddick*. It will be released on June 11 as the sequel to his 2000 movie *Pitch Black*. If you missed the first installment, Diesel plays Riddick, an escaped convict with the power to see in the dark, and is now caught in an intergalactic war between two warlords.



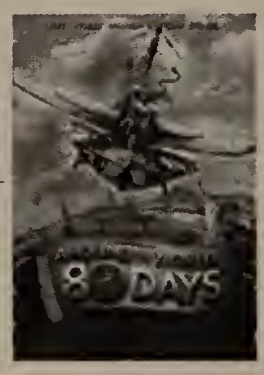
Spider-Man 2 is coming out on June 30th. Having already defeated the Green Goblin in 2001's *Spider-Man*, Peter Parker, played by Tobey Maguire, must now confront his next villain, Dr. Octopus. Amidst the action, he also develops his relationship with his love Mary Jane Watson, played again by Kirsten Dunst. This is most likely going to be a must-see for many this summer.



On July 23, *The Bourne Supremacy* will make its premier as a sequel to another 2002 movie, *The Bourne Identity*. The plot is a little confusing. The vice-premier of China has been assassinated by a man named Jason Bourne, yet this is not anyone's real identity. Jason Bourne is the cover name for CIA agent, David Webb (Matt Damon) and so he is in huge trouble until he can find out who took this "Bourne Identity." Let's just say that to enjoy this movie, you really have to pay attention. *The Bourne Identity* only came out to be a mid-size hit for Universal, so there's no real hype behind the sequel.



Catwoman comes out on the same day, starring the attractive Halle Berry as the feisty, aggressive, yet appealing heroine. Patience Philips, played by Berry, is a graphic artist killed after finding a dark secret about the company she works for, but she is brought back to life with a new attitude by an Egyptian Mao Cat. Now as Catwoman, she is back for revenge and will show no mercy. So far, some critics call it ridiculous, but it's a movie that attracts the guys with Berry, and the ladies with a plot of a woman kicking butt. I doubt that it will be a disappointment.



Based on the famous novel of the same title, *Around The World In 80 Days* will be in theaters on June 16, but you wouldn't believe that this movie had any action unless you knew that Jackie Chan was going to play a major role in it. Steve Coogan plays the lead role as Phileas Fogg, who makes a bet with his friends that he can circumnavigate the world in just 80 days. Jackie Chan plays Passepartout, a Chinese thief who accompanies Fogg on his journey, using his martial arts skills to protect him from any dangers. It looks like it's worth seeing, mainly because you can never get enough of Jackie Chan.

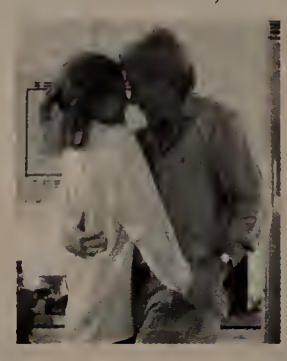


Marlon and Shawn Wayans' new movie *White Chicks* will premiere on June 23. The Wayans brothers play two FBI agents who disguise themselves as two "white chicks" to protect two hotel heiresses who are suspected to be kidnapped. Despite the horrendous make-up job done on the Wayans, the preview makes the movie look hilarious.

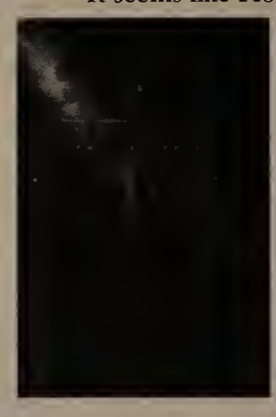


Hillary Duff is collaborating with Warner Bros. to star in *A Cinderella Story*, a humorous version of the well-known fairy tale. Duff plays a typical nerd who falls in love when a boy, played by Chad Murray, finds her cell phone and contacts her. It seems like this will only be popular with the young teen girls who swoon over Murray.

J-Lo is making sure to make her appearance this summer with her movie, *Shall We Dance?*, to be released on August 6. The plot is neither complicated nor unexpected: a worn-out accountant, played by Richard Gere, is in a troubled marriage and is tired of his mundane life. One day, his attention is grasped by the beautiful Jennifer Lopez, who plays a dance teacher. He takes dance lessons from her, hoping it can spice up his life, and becomes so interested that he ultimately participates in a dancing competition. It surely looks like no match for the acclaimed *Save The Last Dance* from 2002, but movies on dance always seem to have that magnetic pull to them.



It seems like Hollywood is aiming to end off the summer with a scream as its horror movies are premiering in late August. The *Exorcist: The Beginning* premiers on August 20, explaining the experiences of Father Merrin as a young missionary priest to post-WWII Africa, and his eventual confrontation with demonic forces and revelation of evil. Producers have also taken the extra effort to make this movie gorier than the first.



One very anticipated movie of the summer is Jet Li's *Hero*, translated to English as it was originally made in China. The story is based on the ancient times of the seven kingdoms, and focuses around three great warriors, "Broken Sword", "Flying Snow" and "Sky". One of the kings, Qin, fears these warriors and hires one of his magistrates to subdue them, which he does successfully. The movie revolves around his story.



Tom Hanks teams up yet again with director Steven Spielberg in the new romantic comedy, *The Terminal*, which is based on a true story. Hanks plays an immigrant who arrives in a New York City airport as he flees his war-torn Eastern European homeland. However, in his arrival, he is informed that the war has caused his home country to no longer exist and thus he is stuck with an invalid passport and paperwork. Unable to go anywhere, he takes up residence in the airport terminal, acquainting himself with the airport workers and eventually falling in love. Like several of Spielberg's works, the concept of this movie is like no other seen before, so it should be an interesting and humorous watch.



Also coming out this summer: *Anchorman*, *I, Robot*, *Collateral* and *Alien vs. Predator*.

Congratulations Conor!
Love,
Your Family

Networks Make Way for New Fall Line-Up

By Daniela Huynh, II
Contributing Writer

Primetime television gets a makeover as many networks are releasing new comedies and dramas to replace old sitcoms that retired from airwaves at the end season. Networks like Fox, WB and NBC are remaking their fall line-up with the promise of higher ratings. Some of last year's sitcoms are cancelled. Slipping into their slots are reality shows, dramas and comedies.

NBC plans to set up quite a few comedies and dramas for their fall season. Jeff Zucker, President of NBC Universal Television, anticipates that "Thursday night is going to be even stronger." One of new shows includes the pilot episode of the *Friends* spin-off *Joey*, starring Matt LeBlanc. There are a few reservations about the ability chat *Joey* has in measuring up to the success of *Friends* but the spin-off already has twenty-four episodes on tap. The *Friends* sitcom had aired for a decade and in those ten years the public has cried and laughed with the blunders and heartbreaks of Ross, Rachel, Monica, Chandler, Phoebe and Joey. After the much-anticipated season finale that earned an Emmy, topped its week's ratings, and garnered much media hype, *Friends* finally closed the curtain on its ten year act. The finale was both a success and a letdown for many *Friends* fans. It marked the end of a wonderfully poignant series, answering all the questions and adding some comical moments that gave viewers a few last laughs. Finishing with a hopeful note, the last episode of *Friends* opened new romantic possibilities for Joey, Rachel and Ross. The season finale was more of a drama compared to all the previous episodes of *Friends,* but it delivered, being a marvelous wrap-up to ten years with the seven friends.

The animated series about lions, *Father of the Pride*, takes over for *Frasier*. *Frasier* began as a spin-off of the sitcom *Cheers* but surprisingly endured and grabbed viewers' attention with its witty script and quirky characters. After more than a decade on-air, *Frasier* finally left the building. *Frasier* has won a total of thirty-one Emmys over the course of eleven years.

Other new comedies appearing in the fall line-up are *Crazy for You* and *The Men's Room*. The new dramas being released are *Law & Order: Trial by Jury*, *Medium* and *The Office*. On Tuesdays, a new boxing reality show called *The Contender* will air in the fall, going up against Fox's *American Idol*. NBC plans to follow up on another season of *The Apprentice* and the hospital comedy *Scrubs* for two more seasons. On Mondays, NBC will release *LAX*, an action drama set in an airport. It also intends to keep airing the steadfast reality show *Fear Factor*. Wednesday nights will begin with *Hawaii*, a new police action drama, and continue with *The West Wing*, which will be replaced midseason by *Revelations*.

On the other hand, the WB intends to keep many of its long-running shows for another season, only adding a few shows to its line-up, one of which is *Drew Carey's Green Screen Show*, after *The Drew Carey Show* was removed from ABC for poor ratings. *Drew Carey's Green Screen Show* and *Blue Collar TV* will take over Tuesday nights because of the season's end of *Angel*, a modern gothic drama about a vampire saving the world. There will be a new game show called *Studio 7* and a ski-resort drama, *The Mountain*, airing on Thursday nights. Veteran teen dramas like *7th Heaven*, *Everwood* and *One Tree Hill* will keep their seats on Monday and Tuesday nights. Moreover, *Smallville* will continue into the fall season every Wednesday night. *Jack & Bobby*, a new drama about two boys and their single mother, will join *Charmed* and *Steve Harvey's Big Time* on Sunday nights.

With the new fall schedules, networks are shoveling out tons of money to run these new shows. These shows are, for the most part, dramas and comedies that make quaint sitcoms obsolete. Television classic programs that have been running for years are retiring from the networks and are being replaced by a number of fast-paced flicks that have a record of being short-lived. The general audience seems to be fascinated by programs that turn more heinous by the episode, ignoring the traditional standards of evaluating graphic merit and focusing on the increasing shock-value of the show until it is canceled because there is nothing more it can do to top itself. In this modern age of entertainment, makeovers are a must, but sometimes they leave a lot of holes.

Latin Baseball at Season's End

By Sam Akiba, II
Staff Writer

As school draws to a close, the baseball season at Boston Latin School has come and gone. Unfortunately, it went with the Wolfpack failing to qualify for the MIAA tournament. With a 9-10 record, Boston Latin fell just one game short of extending their season. It was a 6-0 loss to Catholic Memorial that did them in. Coach David Coleman, who is retiring, did not feel completely disappointed at season's end. "There was definitely some promise at the beginning of this season, and there is potential for next season," he said. The coach is the one who decides Latin School's non-league opponents, and he likes to challenge tough competition. Such a rigorous non-league schedule in addition to a competitive Dual County League made it a difficult season for the Wolfpack. Nevertheless, Latin School did hold their ground in the DCL, winning both games against Acton-Boxboro and had a league record of 9-7 (tied for second place).

The stat sheet shows where this team's faults lie. They had a sub par .273 team batting average and committed 50 errors in 19 games. Sean Martin (II) was the only player to accumulate more than three wins as a pitcher with a 4-1 record. Albeit, there were several highlights to this season: Coach Coleman felt that Andrew Flink (II) (2-1 with a 1.75 ERA) and Matt Stone (III) (1-2 with a 1.35 ERA) were good additions for the pitching staff and showed promise for next year, while Sean Martin (II) led the team with a .333 batting average. Although the team is losing four seniors (Brian Nowak, Tony Poulos, Jeff Donaldson and Matt Giangregorio), Coach Coleman believes that there is a solid group of young players coming up that should provide a nice core to next year's squad.

This year's juniors showed talent and should definitely be keys for next season. Edgar Ayala (II), who played third base for most of the season, was solid throughout the year, and Mike Mitchell (II) affirms that Andrew Laroque (II) is the team's best defensive player. He says, "Yeah, Ballgames (Laroque) played great defense all season." Whoever takes over as next year's manager will be acquiring a solid team, and will be under the watchful eye of Coach Coleman, who plans to attend most of the team's games. This is a well-coached team that faced very tough competition, and given this year's experience, improvement is sure to come in 2005.

Wolfpack Softball Looks Ahead

By Catherine Foley, II
Staff Writer

Playing out of Daisy Field in Jamaica Plain, the softball team is bringing a close to the 2004 season. Since they are losing only one member to graduation, they are optimistic that the experience gained from this season will lead them to the state tournament next year.

The girls started the season off with a tough loss from Westford Academy. Although they lost 15-0, the girls used the experience as an example of what not to do in the future, and improved. Later in the season, the girls sparked a winning streak, starting in a game against Weston, in which the Wolfpack shut out their opponents 5-0. However, Westford Academy was next on the schedule, a different team but the same result: the Pack came out on top. Going into the sixth inning, Latin was down by two runs. Liz Balaconis (III) tied it up with one swing of the bat with two RBIs, while the catcher, Mariella Collins (IV) stopped a girl from stealing second base by throwing her out. Then, in the next half inning Kathleen Roche (V) sacrifice bunted, which sent Laura LeBlanc (III) home for the winning run. The seventh inning had much excitement as Westford attempted to take back the lead with a long hit to Taylor Speranza (III), who relayed the ball into Roche, continuing the play to Collins to tag out the runner at home plate. Boston Latin School won a thriller 3-2. The Wolfpack continued this success by defeating Latin Academy 4-1. With a 4-13, only Wayland, Bedford and Acton-Boxborough remain on the schedule.

Their coach, Tim Holland, plays an important role in the development and chemistry of the team. This is his third year as the head coach, and he is doing a good job working with the young team, making sure they are unified. Fortunately, he will be able to use the experience gained from this season to develop a team that is likely to qualify for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament next season. The leadership also comes from the one and only senior, Anna George, and junior, Caroline Sullivan. These captains, who play outfield and third base, provide support for the young team.

Although the team is young, it has unlimited potential. Balaconis leads the team's offense with an impressive batting average of .314. Then close behind is Laura LeBlanc, .250, and Mariella Collins, .214. Collins is also a major defensive backbone being both catcher and, occasionally, shortstop. Young prospects who should be key to future successes are Katie DiMeo (VI), a pitcher who had an ERA of 2.47, and Kathleen Roche (V), who provides the team with strong hitting, and plays multiple positions. Other important players include, Maura Donnelly (III), Samantha Morrissey (III), Taylor Speranza (III), Shannon Devlin (III), Katie Carney (II), Kayla Cuddy (III) and Caitlin Kerrigan (III).

If you haven't been able to catch a softball game this year, come cheer them on next spring. Captain Caroline Sullivan reflects on this year and expresses her enthusiasm for the 2005 season, "We have a young team this year. We lost many close games, but throughout the season we gained much needed experience. Next year we will have almost the exact same team, and we will be a strong contender in the DCL."

Final Spring Standings

Team	W	L	T
Baseball Varsity	9	10	0
Softball Varsity	4	15	0
Boys' Volleyball	14	4	0
Girls' Tennis	13	5	0
Boys' Tennis	1	19	0
Boys' Outdoor Track	3	13	0
Girls' outdoor Track	3	13	0

Boys' Volleyball: Playoff Powerhouse

By Jin Bin Liu, II
Staff Writer



BY LEAH SKAREN, II

The boys' volleyball team finished up their season like clockwork, with an easy victory over Somerville in two quick games. A season's worth of practice and training has finally come into fruition. Implementation of a variety of drills has helped the squad to master the fundamentals and mechanics of the game, like passing and hitting. Practice scrimmages and official matches have given the team much experience and have taught them to play with great communication. The entire squad plays with skill, spirit and confidence. Now it's time for the Wolfpack to reap the reward of their accomplishments: another run for the divisional title.

Perennial playoff contenders, the boys' volleyball squad fell early last year in the second round. This year, as the Eastern Alliance champions, they look forward to the post-season again, striving for that elusive division title.

"Technically, we lost in the second round last year; but everyone had a first-round bye," explained David Wong (I), one of the varsity captains. Despite the previous year's playoff woes, Wong is very confident about this year's varsity squad. When questioned about this year's expectations, David predicted, "I think we'll go pretty far this year."

In fact, co-captain Peter Trenh (I) expressed even higher aspirations for the team. "We're really great this year. We have a very talented team," concurred Peter. "We're definitely going for states."

The captains' faith in this year's success is backed by a 14-4 regular season record. The 15-man squad is formed around a core group of veteran seniors. The supporting cast of underclassmen is skilled and very capable. In fact, the squad has so much depth and talent that Coach Huy is able to substitute players at will. The team has a skilled setter, David, who does a good job in feeding the team's many powerful hitters, among them Ivan Wong (I). The tall athletic front has great blocking ability and is supported by an exceptional defense in the back row, including the team's libero, Eric Chan (II). Unlike the regular season, playoff matches will be played out as best out of five games instead of three. Divisional winners will enter the Final Four for a chance to be crowned state champions, a goal the team believes to be not unreasonable.

"We have a very good team, a lot of returning seniors," said Coach Huy. "Our team is seeded pretty high. "

The Wolfpack more than met their expectations as they came away with an exciting victory in the first round against Chelsmford. Their opponents rallied and forced a fifth game but the Pack closed them out, 15-6. If this is any indication of the success the volleyball team has come to know, we can very well expect an appearance by the Wolfpack at states.

Spotlight
Katie Barnes



By Amanda Kessler, I
Contributing Writer

Those who know soccer know that this game is more of a way of life than it is a sport. Katie Barnes lives the soccer life. It is one with late night's training, long hours traveling and summers spent on a field rather than a beach (and oh, how Katie knows the "soccer tan"). Most people at Boston Latin School know the school-Katie: she's intelligent, outspoken and has an odd attachment to Costa Rica's offerings. But to really know Katie, you have to know the soccer-Katie too. She's the girl who spent many summer vacations at soccer camps refining her skills; she's one of the few goalies who is as in shape as her field players. Also, she's the teammate and friend who walked me over to the varsity field and pushed me to accept a challenge when I was scared.

It was Katie's friendly face I saw on my first day of Boston Latin try-outs in the seventh grade, and it was her voice I heard leading me every day from the net. Right away this tough little keeper showed her feistiness; she was my partner for many punishment laps after talking back to a clueless coach. She made varsity in the ninth grade, and I'll never forget the reactions of the veteran varsity players; they couldn't believe that this freshman could be good – but she was. She was a captain for Boston Latin this year, and will sorely be missed next year; she is probably the best goalie to ever play for the lady Wolfpack.

Latin soccer is certainly not Katie's whole soccer life; she has also been the keeper for a few different teams in the Massachusetts Premiere League. But the soccer life is not complete with only a competitive soccer side, someone who truly lives the life hops on any field if she's given the chance. I've had the opportunity to play on some leisurely teams with Katie, and I think that is when she is at her best. For at least two or three years Katie has woke up early on Saturday mornings, while all her peers slept in, just to play some more. Although the league didn't end in a state cup, the outcome of an individual game had little importance, and the only people watching the games were parents who were still holding onto the days of youth soccer games. Yet every Saturday morning Katie was there, and every Saturday morning she played her heart out. Put any player on a varsity or premiere league field and they'll try – for the college scouts, for school pride, for any number of reasons. If you throw together a rag tag team of teenage girls, pull them out of bed and place them on a field where no one's watching and the scores aren't reported, the players who try are the ones with true passion.

Katie has the passion and it is a pleasure to play with her. It's her passion for the game that makes her train when most of her peers are relaxing, and it's her passion for the game that keeps her field players going when their limbs feel too tired to run. A keeper sees the whole field, and it's her job to run it; a good keeper lets her players know how much time they have and where their options are. What makes Katie special is her ability to motivate; she does it on the field with her teammates and off the field with her friends.

Sports

Despite Troubles, Crew Rows On

By Kassandra Skipper, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Crew is often brushed off, along with swimming, track and field, as not being a "real sport." It gets written off as simply "rowing" and is assumed to be more recreational than anything else. However, ask any one of the 64 members of Boston Latin School girls crew team for their thoughts on crew being recreational and you will be in for a rude awakening.

The Boston Latin crew team is all about commitment and dedication. The pre-season starts in late January. Practices consist of running up the stairs and around hallways at school, not to mention doing ab-circuits in the gym. They finally get on the water towards the end of March and, with good weather, begin hard physical training. As Liz Hanson (III) puts it, "It's impossible to understand how physically and mentally demanding it is to be on this team until you're on it." Everyday after school the girls make their long journey on the crowded Brighton bus and then walk almost a mile to CRI only to practice until six o'clock. Regattas are a whole day commitment each weekend.

The team is lucky to be led by head coach Gillian Curran. She is a knowledgeable coach who goes above and beyond for the girls. She works overtime and pays for repairs and equipment out of her own pocket. This year's captain Lindy McGrail (II) is a team leader, providing a good example for her younger teammates.

The crew team receives no funding from the school. Parents have raised around $4000 so far this year and despite poor equipment and support from Latin School, the team has had its best year in recent history. In three years, the team has gone from starting from scratch to being a



BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, II

strong, balanced team. What is even more impressive to everyone who hears how well these girls are doing is that there are only two seniors on the squad! The team will be losing seniors Patricia Dembro and Masha Zolotaerof. The first varsity boat, which as of right now is going to remain the same throughout the season, is made up of two juniors, including captain Lindy McGrail, sophomores and one freshman. Talk about a young team!

At the Mother's Day Regatta on the Charles River, the first varsity boat made an amazing comeback from an equipment failure during the first race, to placing second over all in the Petite Finals.

At the NEIRA regatta, the girls made a first-time appearance. The first and third boats raced and did very well. This past weekend at Masspublics, the first Varsity boat won its heat for the first time in BLS crew history, and advanced to Grand Finals. The third boat placed third and received medals. The girls were extremely excited to close the season in such a fashion. They have made a huge improvement and the team as well as Gillian, could not be more pleased with how this year has went.

As the season comes to an end, the girls experience a bittersweet feeling. The future of girls' crew is grim because, due to lack of state funding, the State Senate is considering leasing Urban Park Rinks to private organizations. The First Amendment, Section 308, did not include Daly Rink but there is a concern that it could threaten CRI's ability to continue its programs. The girls and their parents have been furiously calling and emailing their senators to prevent this disaster from happening. It has been a very challenging season, but they are an extremely tight group because of it. Next year should be a very competitive year and the ladies are already looking forward to overcoming any challenges. Keep your eye out on this team next year; they appreciate all the support they can get.

BLS Sailing: Gone With the Wind

By Courtney Ferguson, II
Staff Writer

If there is any Boston Latin School sport that deserves more recognition, it is certainly the sailing team. Much of the school community is oblivious to this talented bunch of students. They are often overlooked and overpowered by more popular spring sports like baseball and softball. The team, however, is worthy of more coverage, especially since their race schedule was left out of last issue. Katie Donahue (I), a passionate member of the sailing team, brought that concern to my attention and it became one of my utmost priorities to ensure that they get a decent article.

The sailing team has had a remarkable season. The team, consisting of a handful of seniors, is overflowing with talent and experience. It is being led this year by co-captains John Holbrook (I) and Aaron Garrett (I). Other notable seniors are Alex Basaga, Katie Donahue, Andrew Dervin, Katherine Pittore and Bryan Newbold. Additional assets include Liz Moniz (II) and Jack Payette (II). Coaches Emily Drowne and Boston Latin's own math teacher John Wetherby have greatly contributed their skill and knowledge to the team's continuing success.

The team meets three days a week for practice at the Courageous Sailing Center in Charlestown. The new, less experienced



BY COURTNEY FERGUSON, II

sailors train on the Rhodes 19 in order to develop and refine basic skills. The more qualified members practice race pieces on boats called 4-20s. These boats include a captain and a skipper and are used in actual races because they pick up more speed and are more aerodynamic. Race-starts and tackling, a skill used to turn faster, are always perfected and a main focus at practice. In addition, the team practices two different types of racing: fleet racing and team racing. To obtain a win in fleet racing, the boat must gain the best position and finish in the quickest time possible. In team racing, there are three boats trying to earn the best possible combined score. This type of race is more complicated because it involves much teamwork and communication. Boats have to cut off and manipulate opposing boats. Sometimes, one boat must forfeit their high position in order for the other two boats to move up in the ranks.

Even though the sailing team has a difficult schedule due to the number of private schools and their enormous amount of funding, the Wolfpack has fared quite well. They were victorious over the Windsor School and Lexington. They have not accumulated many wins, but they have improved significantly throughout the season. The team has grown and as Katie Donahue said, "We work very hard training. Sometimes, we don't even get home from practice until seven o'clock in the evening." Although the team will be losing quite a few members because of graduation, the returning members hope that their success will continue.

Kerry's Final Kolumn



BY MIKE RYAN/ FINELIGHT

You know, my editors wanted to maul me because it took me so long to turn in my column, but it's really difficult for me to say goodbye to the group of athletes that I have competed with and read about for six years. Many students at Boston Latin School admit that they don't read the *Argo*, but I am proud to admit that I have read the *Argo* since I was a sixie. I have also been an athlete at this school since the seventh grade. During the past six years at this school there have been perpetual champions (girls' volleyball, hockey) and perpetual losers (golf, boys' track). But there is one thing that you will find on every team, and in every athlete: a tremendous amount of heart.

Earlier in the year, I stressed the point that Boston Latin couldn't handle the level of competition in the Dual County League because of the grave imbalances between the resources at Latin School and the resources throughout the rest of our league. As my time here ends, however, I feel that I was wrong in my earlier opinions. Maybe I'm just waxing nostalgic, but it seems that the Latin School record does not always reflect the amount of effort put into the competition.

I've seen six generations of athletes pass through the locker-room hallway. Each year has had its standouts as well as the people you wouldn't even think were athletes. Yet in each of those individuals was the desire to compete and to win. Some found more success than others, but I have come to feel that all athletes put in the same measure of heart and desire.

Continued on page 30

Sprinting for Success

By Luke Liu, II
Staff Writer

It's spring again, a time of year when the students and athletes of Boston Latin School are teased by warm weather, signs of an approaching summer and a welcome respite to the stressful year. While many students just want it "all to end," as seasons start, athletes need to step up their game. This is the time when the outdoor track team trains and competes.

Coach Pritchard is acting as head coach for her second season this year, and is being assisted in the field events once again by Coach McCollum. Coach Cohen has taken over coaching the distance runners. Each coach specializes in a different aspect of the sport, sprinting, distance, and field events. Jim Montague was also a great support to runners and coaches alike. This year the coaches have observed a vast improvement over recent seasons. Their expectations were surpassed by several performances at the Dual County League Championship meet.

The boys' team, led by captains Andrew Leone (I) and Fahd Abdus-Sabur (I), has drastically improved this year. Furthermore, with returning veterans such as Brian Pastore (I), Jonathan Yee (I), Bronson Conlin (I) and Shaun Price (I), the 2004 boys' outdoor track team has plenty of leadership and experience. Arkadiusz Turolski (II), the school's strongest distance runner, has continued to impress many; newcomer Sean O'Brien (II) has shocked coaches and teammates with his sprinting and jumping skills. Underclassmen shine as well, such as Mike Schwartz (V), who has run all three track seasons this year. The boys' team has done well this year, with a strong showing during the championship meet. Shaun Price became DCL Champion in the 100m Dash, and Josh Speicher (II) was runner up in the discus, and fourth in the javelin. The boys' team had five DCL All Stars, three individual State qualifiers. As captain Andrew Leone puts it, "If a lot of the kids stay from this year, especially our juniors, we will have a really promising future and an excellent chance to win."

The girls' team, with three DCL All Stars and State Qualifiers, did better than expected, with two regular season wins, and a strong showing at the DCL championships. Seniors Elizabeth Tricco, Kelly Deegan, and Kerry Sullivan provide a lot of experience to the improved team. Caroline O'Loughlin (IV), who runs the 800-meter and the mile, qualified for the state meet in both events. Khaleela Willingham (III) is only one of the many promising underclassmen, and veteran Brittany Canniff (II) continues to run exceptionally well. Throwers Felicia Waldron (II) and Mercy Imahiyerobo (II) are just some of the standout members of the field unit. The team shows distinct promise this year and perhaps even more for the next few years. "A lot of it is due to the coaching," members of the team say. "Look forward to great things this year and in the years to come if the level of dedication remains."

This is a breakout year for both the boys' and girls' outdoor track team, one that clearly shows all the hard work put into it throughout the previous years. The team seems to have finally rebounded from its continuous winless seasons, and certainly looks to not only compete, but to succeed.

Girls' Tennis Swings Into Playoffs

By Patricia Hao, II
Staff Writer

NASA's got air in her first single, followed by her second single teammate T-nana, Kayro in third, the Ram-a-lams on first double with Egho and K-Wal bringing up the rear. Does it not sound a lot like those annoying nonsense e-mails that manage to creep past your spam filters? Well, you'll be relieved to know that the contents of these have not in fact started to infect the *Argo* as well. It's simply some tennis jargon: some common, but unusual names and terms used by the girls of the Boston Latin School Varsity tennis team.

I'm sure many of you have watched a football, soccer, or hockey game; the object of the game is to catch, kick, whack the ball into the other team's goal or end-zone. Tennis is similar; the object of the game is to hit a tennis ball with a racket into the opponent's court so that he cannot return the ball. It's like an enlarged version of ping-pong. These are the basics. However, for the avid thinkers out there who have pondered on their morning bus routes to school how a high school tennis meet is run, you are about to be enlightened. A usual tennis meet consists of five matches played simultaneously. The events are first, second, third singles, first doubles, and second doubles. Singles are matches played with one player on each team, while doubles are simply with two players on each team. In order to win the meet, the team must win three out of five matches, but enough of the technical stuff. Moving on to the quirks and perks...

This handful of girls with members from Class I through IV just meets the requirements of the seven-member bare minimum. The small-team structure allows



for added individual attention, allowing the coach to be able to devote more time to each of the members and making it easier to bring them food before each meet. Practices are only run in the beginning of the tennis season, which is from the end of March to the end of May. Towards the second half of the season, there are so many meets that a mere one to two practices a week would be futile. Because of a lack of funding, there is no official team suit, but the dress code is a white shirt and shorts or skirts. Oh, but don't be fooled by this cookie-cutter, suburban-looking bunch... they've all got their quirks. Remember those names? Apparently, the members have all accumulated nicknames over the years of camaraderie. Most of the nicknames are a play off their real names, but others... I'll leave their origins to your imaginations: Captain Katherine Walsh (I) aka *K-Wal*, Co-Captain Tara Banani (III) aka *T-Nana*, Co-Captain Ania Preneta (II) aka *NASA*, Emma Halas-O'Connor (II) aka *Egho*, Kara Richie (IV) aka *Kayro*, and the Hamad sisters, Reema (II) and Laura (III) aka *Ramalam*.

"It's harder than it sounds. The strategy to tennis is knowing your opponent, finding her weakness and 'finding the holes,'" our coach always says. Most people don't know that you really have to use your mind. Even if you're down four points in a five-point set, the set is not over until the last point. "If you have mental toughness, there's a good chance you could get a come-back," commented Reema Hamad (II).

Her advice is obviously working, since their record is now 10 and 5, which qualifies them for play-offs this year. For the past three years, the BLS girls' tennis team has claimed the state championship. Will they do it again this year? No pressure, girls.

The Tribulations of Boys' Tennis

By Patrick Wu, II
Staff Writer

With the season coming to a close, the boys' tennis team is hoping for a strong finish. Despite a sub-par and disappointing performance throughout most of the season, the team is nonetheless resolved to win their several final matches. The team has engaged in 17 matches so far this season, winning only one: a stellar performance against Catholic Memorial. The team, however, is not satisfied with simply just one win; they are ready to serve up three more wins to end their season on a high note.

This season is far from glorious for boys' tennis; a record of 1-16 is not an indication of success, especially when the girls' team is going to their fourth consecutive tournament this season. This record, however, gives a completely false sense of the time and commitment of the team. Practices are about two hours everyday immediately after school in Sportsmen's Tennis Club of Dorchester, focusing mainly on the basics—forehands, backhands, serves and volleys. Coach Bill Kates has observed drastic improvements since the beginning of the season. The coach has changed his lineups slightly since the preseason: co-captains Darius Banani (I), Carl Adams (I) and Jason Kramer (II) are the singles players. Brian Holder (III), David Qin (IV) and Sam Strassman (V) are a few of the players on the doubles roster. This team in fact is quite talented; however, as co-captain Darius Banani remarks, "The competition [in the DCL] is just too hard; we try our very best but sometimes just come up short."

The team's focus and stress are on the last three matches of the season. With only two league matches remaining, the team is striving to make a point to the league. There is also one league match in which Coach Kates is deeply emphasizing. Because of the results from their victory against Catholic Memorial, a non-DCL team, the players are enthusiastic about the upcoming matches. The team is resolved. Xaverian, Weston and Wayland better watch out.

No matter what the outcomes of the final matches are, we will give our full-support to the team. Co-captain Darius Banani says it best: "We'll just play every remaining match to win and just above all try to have fun doing it."

Spotlight
Brian Pastore



BY FINELIGHT/MIKE RYAN

By Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I
Contributing Writer

If you have ever wondered what you would be like if your inner child were allowed to express itself completely, Brian Pastore is the perfect person to watch. Brian is one of the rare individuals who hasn't lost their childlike wonder and spontaneity to the overwhelming pressure to act as society demands of adults. From dancing in the hallways, singing travel songs during runs and running through public sprinklers in his boxers, one might think that something was wrong with him. But in actuality, Brian is easily one of the most disciplined and focused people I know.

Sports are a crucial piece of the Pastore experience: he has competed on the wrestling, soccer, and track teams. Each of these sports he does for a different reason, but he approaches them all with a level of dedication that has earned him widespread respect amongst his teammates.

Pastore has been playing soccer as long as he can remember, beginning with the Parkway league in West Roxbury and leading up to his entrance into the Boston Latin School soccer team freshman year, where he has been playing ever since. Usually positioned in defense roles, Pastore declares his willingness to go wherever he is needed, regardless of how much effort it might entail. When asked of his thoughts on having played for so long on several different teams, it takes him only a moment to say "I love soccer and always will. I just grew up with the sport and fell in love with playing it."

In ninth grade, despite a cascade of different injuries due to wrestling moves used throughout the season, not once did Brian consider quitting—that would not only let down the expectations of his friends, but would also cost his team points in every meet where there would be no one to fill his place. He credits the sport with challeging his mental and physical endurance.

On the track team, Pastore does both shot put and runs the 400-meter dash. This year he assumed a command role, helping to instruct new throwers. With a shoulder injury prohibiting his throwing later in the season, Pastore went on to run in the 4x400 meter relay, helping Latin School place fifth in the Dual County League championships, the best it has done in years. Having done track since sixie year, Pastore has a wide circle of friends on the team, and even a small fan club among the underclassmen. There are Pastore stories abound on the track team, covering everything from mishaps with batons to his fear of gorillas.

As impressive as his dedication to athletics is, Brian's passion goes first and foremost to his status in the Boy Scouts, having earned the rank of Eagle Scout. It was in the Boy Scouts that Brian met some of his closest friends and reinforced his love of politics and military history, since many of his trips as a boy scout were to sites such as Gettysburg and meetings with various politicians. It also helped him decide that he wanted to join the armed forces, specifically the Marine Corps. He wholeheartedly acknowledges that the entire Boy Scout experience is the central part of what has defined him as a person.

Brian will be attending Norwich University in Vermont to study criminal justice and take Naval ROTC classes, and hopes to become an active marine later in life.

Elizabeth Ann LaRosee
1/2
Good work.
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Michelle
Derek
Ryan
Kelly
Danny and Kathy
Nana and Grampy
Susie

CONGRATULATIONS

ST.JOHN BARNED-SMITH

and CLASS OF 2004

Thanks friends, teachers, coaches, and staff for your time with St. John.
And thanks St. John for your time with teachers, friends, coaches, and staff, too. We look forward to hearing all your stories of new places and
friends, and all that Latin has prepared you for.

Love! Mombo and Dad

Kerry's Final Kolumn

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For many athletes, their sports at Latin were not just a matter of winning or losing. The athletics at Boston Latin help draw together an incredible group of people, who create a bond through their desire for competition and team camaraderie. The senior class especially has a strong bond created through their sports and teams. Undoubtedly, the seniors on this year's football squad have one of the strongest bonds in the school, forged in part due to the loss of their teammate, John Yessayan, in the ninth grade. Teams have been united and bonds forged in happiness as well. And a good measure of that happiness was created by victory. At the Thanksgiving football game, seniors were united on and off the field, with those on the field huddling to form plays, and those in the stands huddling to stay warm.

In my final, lasting opinion, I would have to say that the best part of the sports at Latin School is not the gymnasium full of banners. It is the lasting friendships that have been created on the soccer fields, the hockey rinks, the golf courses, the tennis courts, the track (and field), the sailboats, the basketball courts and all the other arenas we play in. One of my best friends is a teammate that I have run with since the eighth grade. Other students are still playing soccer with the same kids with whom they learned the game (yes I'm referring to those infamous JP kids, and all you Parkway soccer kids). The departing seniors have learned lifelong lessons on their playing surfaces. They've learned about themselves, their teammates, their sports and the world around them. They've become leaders and captains, all-stars and champions. In the end though, none of these lessons or accomplishments would have taken place if the athletes who experienced them didn't have heart. It's that heart, determination and desire—the will to compete and do something meaningful that created the lifelong friendships, and brought home that tangible and emotional victory. So, congratulations and good luck to the champions known as the Class of 2004.

Matthew DiVito

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.

Sports Senior Tribute

Congratulations to the athletes of the class of 2004.

Amanda Kessler

By Katie Barnes, I
Contributing Writer


BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

When I first met Mandy, I looked down to see a cute little redheaded girl with a huge smile, and now that I think of it, that description is still pretty accurate. I was, however, referring to the first day of kindergarten at the Hernandez School. Seven years later, I had this feeling of *deja-vu* when I got to Daisy field for Boston Latin School Soccer pre-season. While searching for another sixie, I looked down to see yet another cute little redheaded girl with incredibly small feet. Of course, the two were one and the same: the awesome Amanda Kessler.

That first day of pre-season began an amazing friendship with not only one of Boston Latin's greatest soccer players, but also with one of the greatest people that will pass through its doors. Kessler immediately proved herself on the soccer field, starting every JV game in seventh grade and then getting called up to Varsity after a handful of games in eighth grade. In ninth grade I had the pleasure of joining Kess on Varsity, and even though she was without a doubt the smallest player in the DCL, she was, as one referee put it, the "toughest S.O.B" anyone had ever seen. She also was the only player who, when she sported her bright yellow mouth guard, looked exactly like a bunny rabbit, but one of those vicious rabid bunnies. At the same time as Kessler was shining on the "soccer fields" at Daisy and Cleveland Circle, she was also showcasing her skills as a captain on her D1 Club team, KICS (Kids In Control Of Soccer, (and if you were wondering, that is definitely an acronym that describes Kess). This past year Kessler was a captain of Latin's soccer team; we couldn't have asked for anyone better to lead us through a highly spirited though not victorious season. She was the reason we trekked to practice everyday. As many of you know, Mandy tragically tore her ACL this season, and for quite awhile was only able to run in a straight line, no curves allowed. In an astonishingly short time, however, she was juggling, dribbling and kicking with all her former strength (and don't let her petite size fool you: she's as strong as a beast). For everyone who plays with her, Mandy embodies team motivation, and the reason I love to play this game is because I play with people just like her.

Karen Chui

By Darwin Liu, I
Contributing Writer


BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

Karen Chui is not your typical Asian girl. For those of you who do not know her, you might think that she studies 24/7, has no life and eats rice three times a day. I cannot even begin to explain how wrong you are. For starters, she is an exotic dancer at Mac 2's lounge in Billerica! I see I've gotten your attention. Okay, so she (as far as I know) may not be an exotic dancer, but she is definitely an amazing athlete.

Upon entering the ninth grade, she immediately joined the girl's Junior Varsity volleyball team as a setter. Due to her aggression, enthusiasm and attitude, she became the captain of the JV volleyball team the following year. Being the co-captain and an All-Star player of the 2003 Varsity team, she brought encouragement, support and focus. The tremendous effort displayed by Karen and the team brought them their third Dual County League Championship.

Besides being apart of the Wolfpack volleyball team, Karen is also involved in the Boston Freemasons Club, works as a pathology lab assistant at Brigham and Women's Hospital and is a member of numerous clubs. Her daily schedule consists of going to school in the morning, attending her clubs after school, running to work and returning to school for volleyball practice.

Her participation in school activities includes the Pre-Medical Society, the Red Cross, Yearbook and the Key Club. She also served as the secretary of Cooks Who Care. You may not see her in the senior lounge or studies because she is either volunteering at the Library or the Nurse's office. Karen has decided to major in Pre-nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Although her schedule is very rigorous, she still manages to find time to have fun. Mr. Izzo once said, "Look at her! I think she's crazy; she laughs at everything!" I cannot ever recall not seeing a smile on her face. Her bright smile, happy mood and outward enthusiasm are exactly what a person needs for motivation. Always smiling and always ready to lend a hand, Karen is truly one of the best friends a person can have.

Jill Gordon

By Tracy Hannon & Kristen Stone, I
Contributing Writers


BY MIKE RYAN/FINELIGHT

Jill is one of the most motivated and ambitious people we know, putting in 110 percent in everything she does. Perhaps that is why she has accomplished so much in basketball and swimming. Everyone knows that Boston Latin School is very challenging, so maintaining high grades while participating in two varsity sports is quite an achievement. Jill's great leadership qualities and her determination have allowed her to become captain of the girls' basketball team as well as a member of the girls' swim team.

Jillian's interest in sports began at a very young age. She was only about nine years old when she began playing basketball in the West Roxbury Community Center league, and before that she joined the Gators swim team at the YMCA. Jill developed a passion for these sports at an early age, and as she got older, her skills became quite impressive.

What stands out even more than Jill's skill is her character. We both played basketball with Jill for several years and she is the kind of teammate that everybody wishes they had because of her optimism and dedication. She is not just about the flashy shots or the fancy moves; she is a quiet leader of the team. Whether it's her killer defense or her dependable three-pointer, Jill always gets the job done. During this past basketball season, Jill was faced with a young team who really needed her leadership. The team did not have the best season as far as the record is concerned, but Jill always made sure that everyone had fun. Jill also participated in the three-point contest in the Dual County League. She placed second, losing by only one shot.

Jill is also a leader in her community. During the basketball season she volunteers her time to coach a fifth and sixth grade basketball team. She also works as a referee for girls and boys youth basketball.

We have known Jill since she was four years old, and she is still the same person that she has always been. She is still a motivated, athletic, outgoing, and kind person. She is always willing to help others. Next year she will attend New York University, and they will be lucky to have someone with the leadership qualities she possesses.

Carl Adams

By Bob Grueter, I
Contributing Writer


COURTESY OF BU ATHLETICS

From time to time, you may have seen Carl slowly lumbering down the corridors on his way to class, but did you know that this mild-mannered giant is the captain of a varsity sports team at Boston Latin School? You may find yourself asking, "Is he captain of the football team, the basketball team or the wrestling team?" Nope. For this rather large young man is the captain of the Varsity tennis team at Boston Latin, and if you haven't heard, he's pretty good.

Carl first picked up a racquet at the age of seven and has been playing ever since. He won the Boston Latin Association of School Tennis tournament twice as the 16's age division champion in 2001 and the 18's age division champion in 2003. He has been a member of the Varsity tennis team since he entered the school as a 9th grader. Since then he was awarded most improved player as a sophomore and the coaches award as a junior.

Even though Carl has had much success as a tennis player, he has also had to overcome many challenges. He has had four operations on his right knee since the age of 12 and dislocated his kneecap at the age of 16. Because of this, he has decided to play in less sectional tournaments and to focus more on school tennis.

Carl volunteers as a tutor and tennis instructor at Sportsmen's Tennis Center in Dorchester. He is not sure if he wants to compete on the Boston University tennis team but says that he wants to be involved in the sport for the rest of his life. He wants to become a tennis instructor as an adult and would like to open his own tennis camp one day. Perhaps he will even return to Boston Latin to become the boys' Varsity tennis coach. Whatever he decides to do the sport of tennis has given a lot to Carl and he wants to give something back to his community by introducing and spreading the sport of tennis to inner city kids and teens like himself.

Jonathan Yee

By Fahd Abdus-Sabur, I
Contributing Writer


BY LEAH SKAHEN, II

When Jonathan Yee speaks, people listen; though usually because it is incredibly rare for him to say things in public. This is not because he is unable to speak well, as he recently won second place in the last prize reading competition, and can skillfully debate a wide variety of topics when he chooses to in class. Shyness also plays no part in his reticence; it is merely a result of his lack of a desire to say anything unless it is absolutely necessary.

One of the basic things most people know about Jon, if not the only thing, is that he is on the track team. Having joined the outdoor track team during sixie year, he later decided to expand to cross country and indoor track, making him one of the rare males to participate in all three running sports during a school year. Jon decided during freshman year to focus solely on track rather than try to juggle clubs. Jon continued in his focus on all three sports through senior year, culminating in his becoming captain of the cross country team. Jon admits to running track for its countless benefits: increased cardiovascular health, maintenance of his body at a certain level of fitness and that euphoric rush that results at the end of a long run.

Academically, Jon refuses to shrink from extra work. He chose to take three AP classes in order to earn credits to carry on to college. This, combined with everyday practices for track or cross country, managed to consume a great deal of his after school life, giving him little time to spend with his friends outside of the practices.

In the practices many on the boys' track team and cross country team can testify to the outright hilarity of the comments Jonathan makes; in fact, many even started to compile the "jonathanisms," which include gems such as "Life is not like a box of legos. once you lose your pieces there are no extras."

Jonathan will attend UMass Amherst in the fall intending to gain a medical degree in the long run, and is considering becoming a marine through the Naval ROTC program.

Congratulations
MALLORIE
You're The Best
Love,
Dad, Mom, & Mark


BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL